FBIS DAILY REPORT

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PRESIDENT REITERATES COMMITMENT TO POLICIES

PM241515 Paris LE MONDE in French 24 Apr 85 p 5

[Interview with President Raul Alfonsin by Marcel Niedergang in Buenos Aires; date not given]

[Text] Buenos Aires -- "It is a joke. There is no question of my giving up my job. I can assure you that I am prepared to fight to the end...." President Raul Alfonsin, who received us for an interview at Government House, strongly denied rumors of his possible "resignation" which have been circulating in Buenos Aires during the past few days. According to some political circles, he is "overwhelmed" and "unable to cope with the situation." In fact the head of state, smiling and cordial, did not conceal the scale of the multifaceted crisis affecting Argentina. He certainly seemed tired and preoccupied. But his determination to face the situation seemed as strong as ever. Under his easygoing manner, his determination has not waned. This is proved by the fact that the trial of the former Armed Forces commanders in chief who were members of the successive juntas between 1976 and 1982 would never have taken place if President Alfonsin had not thrown the full weight of the Constitution behind it. Nonetheless, the subject of a coup d'etat is once again on the agenda in Argentina.

"The situation," he said, "is in fact particularly delicate and difficult. A crisis is evident on several levels: economic, social, and political. Inflation is not dropping. The foreign debt is a millstone. The trial of the military is probably helping to aggravate tension and nervousness, and some minority groups in society think and behave in a way incompatible with the democratic spirit."

Some politicians accuse the Radical government of brandishing the bugaboo of a coup d'etat to rally faltering enthusiasm and support. The president preferred not to comment on these accusations, but his disdainful smile was eloquent. He did not dispute the fact that a degree of disenchantment is perceptible but, he added forcefully, "one thing is certain: The Argentine people who are suffering the consequences of the crisis are firmly attached to the democratic institutions. If there is a consensus, it is in this desire not to change regime."

Some people go so far as to compare Argentina today with the Weimar Republic. "In my view," he said, "the two situations are not at all comparable. The national and international contexts are entirely different. Finally and above all, in Argentina today the Armed Forces are resolutely hostile to any attempt which violates the Constitution...."

However, the president admitted that the trial of the former junta members is causing "tension," but he said he thinks it is unlikely to cause a "loss of prestige for the military institution." According to him the aim is instead to "increase this prestige" and, he added, "not only is Argentine democracy not in danger, but we are going to show the world our maturity. Justice simply must be done. The trial will close the long chapter of 'putschism' in our country."

What about the economic crisis? What about the problems with the IMF? The president thinks that the IMF and the international finance bodies "are beginning to have a better understanding of the scale of the problems."

"The question of the debt," he said, "is primarily political. We are still negotiating. We are drawing up a plan and economic and financial measures likely to revive confidence. But I repeat: We will never allow the most underprivileged sectors to be the main victims of the recovery measures envisaged."

ALFONSIN SEEKS MEETING WITH CGT LEADERS

PY192320 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 19 Apr 85 p 11

[Text] (NA-DYN) -- President Raul Alfonsin instructed Labour Minister Hugo Barrionuevo to meet this morning with leaders of the Unified CGT [General Confederation of Labour] in what appears a warm up for a meeting next week between the president and unionists. A high-level CGT source yesterday said that if the meeting with Alfonsin does not show results the confederation might call a half-day national strike.

In Congress, meanwhile, Radical Deputy Luis Brasesco presented a bill to include worker participation in state and mixed firms with full-time staffs of over 500 employees. Under the bill a workers' council would be created to help firms draft production and marketing plans and control the implementation of these.

And on the strike front 45,000 university employees completed their two-day walkout warning they could announce new measures next week unless the Economy Ministry authorizes their pay-scale system

Barrionueva yeaterday said Alfonsin had expressly requested that he meet with the four national CGT secretaries-general today. The talks should prove positive, Barrionuevo said, "because I feel the union leaders don't want to be called on just to talk about wage demands but also to offer their support for the government's socio-economic policies." But the CGT is expected to stick to its wage demands which centre on payment of the inflation adjustment due for the first quarter of 1985.

Barrionuevo also sent warning signals that the CGT might not get what it wants with respect to the reestablishment of collective wage bargaining talks. "Very precise details have to be made on the margins around which negotiations may centre," the former unionist said.

CGT leaders and representatives of the 10 business groups participating in the socio-economic contract talks met last night, afterwards saying they would today issue a statement referring to the viability of continuing with the talks.

CGT Leaders Dissatisfied

PY201659 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 20 Apr 85 p 1

[Text] (NA-DYN) -- The General Confederation of Labour (CGT) came out empty-handed yesterday from their meeting with Labour Minister Hugo Barrionuevo and decided to turn Labour Day celebrations into a kickoff for strikes and mobilizations calling for a government socio-economic policy turnabout. CGT Secretaries-General Saul Ubaldini, Osvaldo Borda, Ramon Baldassini, and Jorge Triaca stand-in Armando Cavalieri left their meeting with Barrionuevo shaking their heads saying they were not given anything. They said Barrionuevo notified them President Raul Alfonsin could not meet with them before next Tuesday's CGT plenary (and perhaps not all of next week) and likewise failed to provide them with any insight into possible administration bending to their positions.

Whereas Barrionuevo held out hope the Unified-CGT would take part in next Friday's government-sponsored rally in defence of democracy, one of those present said "the issue was not discussed" at the meeting. Triaca, on the same point, said the government "applies the policy of fait accompli. It convenes a mobilization and asks for the support of all political parties and sectors of society after it's a consummated fact."

The government cold-shoulder sent the CGT leaders off smouldering and deciding to turn the May 1 Labour Day anniversary celebrations into a half-day strike and massive nighfall rally in a football stadium or perhaps Plaza de Mayo on April 30. They further announced Tuesday's plenary will decide on a "plan of action" which could include protests throughout May -- asking the government to do a turnabout on its socio-economic policy now conditioned by International Monetary Fund impositions, they say -- culminating in a June 12 protest when the president is addressing the International Labour Organization (ILO) in Geneva.

In other labour news, the 170,000-strong bank employees association (ABBA) called off last night the three-hour stoppages scheduled for next Tuesday through Thursday because a management-labour commission had been set up to study updating their wages. It also called for a "state of alert" due to the threat of mass layoffs hanging over the union in light of pending bank closures.

The Heavy Truck Transport Confederation (CATAC) asked for an urgent meeting with the president as a "last-ditch attempt to ward off a nationwide strike within 10 days" if a solution is not found to their "dire economic situation."

Neuquen was practically a ghost-province yesterday as private and public companies in most cities closed doors both in support of installing a nitrogen fertilizer plant (Fertineu) and against the laying of a gas pipeline between Loma de la Lata and Puerto Galvan.

Court clerks (UEJN) said the Federal Capital civil court ignores the "constitutional right to strike" by continually warning them they would face sanctions if they carried out protest measures. And the newly-elected construction workers (UOCRA) leaders won back an old union conquest, making April 22 "Construction Workers' Day" -- a non-working payday.

General Strike Called

PY241618 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 24 Apr 85 p 11

[Text] (NA-DYN) -- Fired on by Unified CGT Secretary-General Saul Ubaldini who complained that President Raul Alfonsin has time to meet with the King of Spain but not with unionists, regional CGT leaders yesterday approved a proposed national strike on May 23. Ninety-seven union and 104 regional CGT representatives approved the strike action proposed by the national CGT leadership at yesterday's plenary assembly.

In a statement released afterwards, the CGT said "Democracy cannot demand from the country the same economic and social paralysis suffered under the dictatorship. Democracy should free us from the oppressive policies imposed by the foreign centres of international usury."

The CGT also offered its alternative to President Raul Alfonsin's call for Argentines to march in defense of democracy on Friday. The CGT said the government instead should call for an "intelligent and imaginative march" to address the country's economic problems "without turning to the monetary recipes of the International Monetary Fund."

"Four factors constantly threaten democracy," the CGT added. "Inflation, which is reducing our efforts to dust; unemployment, which turns men into society's marginals; speculation, which is the refuge for insensitivity and egoism; and the looting of wages, which are being used as the adjustment variable of the economy."

Though the press was barred from yesterday's meeting, union sources said Ubaldini opened the plenum criticizing Alfonsin for "having time to meet with the King and Queen of Spain, allies of Great Britain, but not to talk with workers." The CGT leadership had requested to meet with the president last week but was turned down and no future meeting date has been set.

The "plan of action" accepted yesterday by union leaders and regional delegates includes a series of marches starting next Tuesday in Rosario to demand the government change its socio-economic policies. The Rosario march is also to commemorate International Workers Day. But unionists leaving the plenary assembly were uncertain as to whether the May 23 strike call meant a 24-hour stoppage and if it would include a march on Government House as had been rumoured.

Representatives from interior provinces said they took a tough stance at the assembly. Parana CGT delegate Carlos Etcheverry demanded a "more active" plan because "the workers in the interior aren't going to take any more." And Mendoza unionist Carlos Zaffore criticized national CGT leaders for not having visited the province after the earthquake there last January.

ALLIANCE BETWEEN CGT, COMMITTEE OF 25 THREATENED

PY182150 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 18 Apr 85 p 11

[Text] (NA-DYN) -- The alliance between the CGyT (working and negotiation committee) and the Committee of 25 groups within the United CGT showed signs of weakening yesterday as members of the latter were accused of trying to head labour towards the left.

State workers, meanwhile, staged a five-hour strike in Mendoza to demand a $a20,000 [peso] pay hike and 45,000 non-teaching employees at the country's 26 universities stayed home in the first of a two-day work stoppage to get the Economy Ministry to okay a pay-scale agreed to with the Education Ministry.

CGyT ideologist Armando Cavalieri (retail trade clerks) yesterday said some members of the 25 are jeopardizing CGT unity and talks aimed at reaching a new 62 Organizations leadership by drafting a socio-economic statement not in line with the one proposed by the CGT at the contract table with government and business. Differences appeared, Cavalieri said, "when some guys from the 25 started making ideological stances with the intention of leading the left wing of the workers' movement." Cavalieri added that this "absurd position" by left-wing unionists was "not favourably seen" by Osvaldo Borda, one of the four national CGT secretaries general and a chief 25 spokesman.

The 25 is expected to release its statement tomorrow. Sources yesterday said it includes a warning that "oligarchy's and imperialism's plan is as fresh and powerful as ever."

Union unity was weakened on yet another flank as metal workers' unionist Hugo Curto -- one of Lorenzo Miguel's right-hand men -- claimed that 95 percent of union leaders want a unified labour front while the other five percent "negotiates with the government in order to divide the Peronist movement."

Meanwhile, Labour Minister Hugo Barrionuevo dashed union hopes of a meeting shortly with President Raul Alfonsin, saying the CGT would have to wait until next week. The CGT is still hoping to meet with Alfonsin before its national plenary meeting on Tuesday. Barrionuevo added that the CGT and business groups participating in the contract talks could be called to help control prices.

In Mendoza, 4,000 of the province's 35,000 state workers who stopped work yesterday marched on Government House, where Governor Santiago Llaver declared the strike illegal and said "we're on a dead-end street" because the government has no funds to meet union demands.

DEFENSE REVEALS STRATEGY IN JUNTA MEMBERS TRIAL

PY241447 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 23 Apr 85 p 11

[By George Hatch]

[Text] The challenge posed by leftist terrorism here in the mid-1970's constituted a virtual state of war. That is the main argument that defense lawyers awkwardly floated and re-floated yesterday during questioning in the first public session of the historic "juntas trial." But the witnesses called by them, five former Peronist government officials, refused to swallow the bait.

In private, defence lawyers say that proving the existence of a state of war in the mid-1970's explains why "drastic" steps were required to quash terrorism. "In a state of war you don't hand your prisoners over to judges," said one of them in an interview last week. That reasoning was behind numerous efforts by the defence yesterday to get witnesses to admit that by 1975-1976, terrorism had overcome the constitutional system's ability to cope.

The day's first witness, former provisional president Italo Luder, appeared in no mood to play along. Asked about a decree he signed in 1975 that ordered the Armed Forces to take charge of anti-terrorist efforts throughout the country, he said: "Never was it thought that involving the Armed Forces should alter the constitutional guarantees of each citizen."

The next witness, former Economy Minister Antonio Cafiero, was less accommodating still. (He set the tone early -- when asked in the introductory period that precedes each testimony whether he was related to the defendants, the former minister shot back: "No way." Not only did Cafiero support Luder's view that the threat of terrorism did not require resorting to illegal means, he also contended that terrorist activity was on the decline during the four months preceding the March 1976 military coup.

The witnesses who followed -- former ministers Alberto Rocamora, Alfredo Gomez Morales, Antonio Benitez, and Carlos Ruckauf -- stuck to Luder and Cafiero's path.

Another procession of former Peronist officials as witnesses tomorrow will give defence lawyers more chances to portray the 'dirty war' as essential. But if the defence's own witnesses continue refusing to oblige, the "juntas trial" could fast become one-sided.

ARMY CHIEF: COMMANDER NOT CONTACTED BY CIVILIANS

PY241814 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 16 GMT 24 Apr 85

[Report from Government House by Jorge Dentel]

[Text] Army Chief of Staff General Hecter Rios Erenu, through a radiogram sent to all Army units today, asserted that press reports stating that civilian leaders contacted an Army commander to change the government leadership are groundless. The message, allegedly addressed to all garrisons of the country, adds that the Army chief is in charge of informing Army echelons about all important events concerning the Army.

According to the information obtained, the message states that in view of the press reports asserting that an Army corps commander had informed the national executive branch more than 1 month ago that he had been contacted by civilian leaders with the purpose of bringing about changes in government action, it is hereby informed that the mentioned report is groundless and has the purpose of confusing the members of the Army and public opinion at a particularly difficult moment for the Republic.

The Army chief adds that while exercising his authority, he will not delegate the responsibility of informing or communicating to the corresponding echelons important events concerning the Army. As a result, any similar situation which may arise in the future must be dismissed.

This information has not yet been confirmed in reliable circles.

FRONDIZI REFUTES CHARGES OF COUP INVOLVEMENT

PY240220 Buenos Aires CLARIN in Spanish 23 Apr 85 p 9

[Excerpts] Guadalupe, Spain (EFE) -- Former Argentine President Arturo Frondizi yesterday described himself as a champion of democracy and told EFE that "a military coup would not have a chance in Argentina today." Thus, Frondizi, who had initially refused to discuss the situation prevailing in his country, refuted recent charges which involved him in maneuvers aimed at destabilizing the Argentine Government. During the meeting of former presidents of Spanish-speaking countries held in Guadalupe, Frondizi's case was informally discussed and all those present voiced their support for him and described Frondizi as a democrat, according to the opinions collected by EFE.

Arturo Frondizi emphasized that he, along with all the others who participated in the meeting held in Guadalupe, "is in favor of democracy and will defend it." Frondizi explained that "he had never mistaken the errors of military leaderships for democratic institutions" and added that "the military institutions must continue to exist and I do not hold the institutions responsible for the errors of their leaderships."

Upon being asked whether he was pleased to see military uniforms vanishing from presidential posts in Latin American nations, Frondizi answered: "What pleases me is not the vanishing of military uniforms, but the fact that the people can vote and that those whom the people choose get to rule; if the people choose a military man, let the military man rule." The former Argentine president believes that the main thing is that there must be democracy, voting, and a democratic government. However, he made it clear that "if democracy fails to provide solutions, it will remain unstable in Latin America."

GOVERNMENT ACCUSED OF CURTAILING PRESS FREEDOM

PY202105 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 20 Apr 85 p 9

[Text] (NA) -- The newspaper Editors Association (ADEPA) has denounced an intimidatory campaign to curtail freedom in the news media. In a statement signed by ADEPA President Carlos Ovidio Lagos and Secretary Jose Di Fiori, high government officials are charged with turning against independent journalism while using psychological pressure to confuse public opinion. ADEPA points out that the current stand by these officials against any sort of government criticism brings to mind similar periods in the past, when those who spoke out against government policies were immediately classified as 'destabilizers.' However neither the intimidation or the threats made recently to journalists will succeed in changing the spirit of free press, ADEPA said.

CABINET TO OFFER RESIGNATIONS 26 APRIL

PY250140 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 24 Apr 85 p 1

[Text] Today, all cabinet ministers will sign a document drafted by Education Minister Marco Maciel and Justice Minister Fernando Lyra which states that they will offer their resignations to President Jose Sarney. The resignation note will be given to the president on Friday, 26 April. However, Sarney already told a minister that he will not consider any changes in the cabinet until the shock caused by the death of Tancredo Neves subsides.

Resignation Rejected

PY250350 Sao Paulo Radio Bandeirantes Network in Portuguese 0230 GMT 25 Apr 85

[Excerpt] On the express orders of the president, who is 55 years old today, there is to be no birthday celebration of any kind. Jose Sarney was in his office in Planalto Palace today. He only held one meeting, with the chief of the National Intelligence Service, General Ivan de Sousa Mendes, who expressed his willingness to resign if the president wished this, but he was immediately asked by the president to remain in his post.

The expectation in Brasilia is that Sarney will do the same with the members of his cabinet who are going to submit their resignations.

Journalist Antonio Brito, who was appointed presidential press secretary by Tancredo Neves, will remain in his position at the request of the president himself.

DETAILS OF NEVES' AUTOPSY DISCLOSED

PY241152 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 23 Apr 85 p 3

[Excerpts] Sao Paulo -- According to the autopsy conducted by a medical team led by Dr Edgar Augusto Lopes at 2300 on 21 April, President Tancredo Neves' death was caused by multiple lesions of his organs, septicemia and a benign leiomyoma in the intestines -- a tumor that was removed during the first operation. The same medical team also embalmed President Neves' body. Guilherme Rodrigues da Silva, superintendent of the Clinical Hospital, added that at the end of his long agony, Neves' blood pressure dropped and he suffered a peripheral circulator deficiency.

The details of the autopsy were contained in a secret document. The autopsy and the embalming were conducted at the Pathology Department (in the basement level of the Heart Institute) and was attended, according to regulations, by Ministers Bayma Denys (chief of the Military Household) and Jose Hugo Castelo Branco (chief of the Civilian Household).

Tom Eisenlohr, a presidential press adviser, reported that the death certificate was filed at the office of vital statistics located in the Pinheiros neighborhood, where the Heart Institute is also located. He also described the embalming procedure.

Samples of viscera were collected for histopathological tests which, according to Rodrigues da Silva, will be ready "in 2 or 3 days." He noted, however, that the results of these tests will be kept secret (as provided by law) and that they will be added to the medical records.

He said: Not even President Sarney can see them, unless he is authorized by the Neves family.

NATIONAL LEADERS SPEAK AT NEVES' FUNERAL

President Jose Sarney

PY250300 Brasilia Domestic Service in Spanish 0143 GMT 25 Apr 85

[Speech by President Jose Sarney at the funeral of President-elect Tancredo Neves in Sao Joao del Rei, Minas Gerais -- live]

[Text] Minas Gerais, in times of rejoicing, in times of celebaration, the bells of your century-old cathedrals ring happily; Brazil knows of your martyrs and your passion for freedom.

Today is different. On this cold evening your bells toll sadly, amid silence. Brazil is delivering to Minas Gerais, to his holy land of Sao Joao del Rei, the remains of one of the greatest men in its history.

His soul, free from life, nowfloats through eternity, but it will not arrive alone before God. His soul will be accompanied by those Brazilians who yesterday at Plaza da Liberdade followed Tancredo Neves on his path to death, like tragically symbolic angels of the people.

Tancredo's legacy for this nation is great. He leaves behind the legacy of an honorable public life. He leaves the legacy of his love for the people. He leaves the legacy of tolerance. He leaves the legacy of reconciliation. He leaves the legacy of greatness in public life.

We shall honor him appropriately. His commitment, as I have already said, will be ours; his promises, our promises, his dream, our dream.

In the face of difficulties, Tancredo Neves will undoubtedly be a source of inspiration and strength because never before in this country have so many hopes come together with so many difficulties. In this moment in which we honor and remember him before their eyes, as president of this nation, I think about the poor, about the humble, about those who are suffering, about those who long for justice, and from these thoughts we will take the clay to build the new Republic.

Tancredo Neves, on behalf of the Brazilian people: Farewell, good-bye, we will miss you.

Chamber President Guimaraes

PY250320 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 0127 GMT 25 Apr 85

[Speech by Ulysses Guimaraes, president of the Chamber of Deputies, at the funeral of President-elect Tancredo Neves at Sao Joao del Rei cemetery -- live]

[Text] I will try to be an instrument for the hopes of the unemployed; the underemployed; the employees whose salaries cannot cover their living expenses; the have-nots; the women who live their daily tragedy in fairs, small shops, marketplaces, and supermarkets, as they wage the impossible struggle to buy without enough money, to buy not what will allow them to live, but to survive, to buy just a little bit, to buy [word indistinct]; for the hopes of the children and the men of this country, particularly those who have neither food or schools, and who have thus joined the ranks of the illiterate; the entrepreneurs, mainly the owners of small- and medium-sized enterprises, in a country where risks bring financial collapse and speculation brings wealth.

However, I will not attempt to speak for them, because no one can do so, and because this mission cannot be entrusted to any one else. Theirs is the voice that nurtures democracy.

They have already let their voice be heard, Tancredo, in the squares, streets and public places, during the largest rallies the world has ever witnessed. Their voice has already been heard. And here they go, singing, dressed in green and yellow [Brazilian flag colors], and turning the national anthem into a popular song.

Astonishing show, the celebration of the distressed who harbor hope, the hope that enlightens and encourages the crowds to assume a commitment, a commitment that resulted in the election of Tancredo Neves. This commitment, today a sacred pledge, can be christened Tancredo Neves.

This commitment is a model. Without it, the government would not be trustworthy. This commitment means that those who work for Brazil should receive the benefits of social justice. This commitment means devotion to our sovereignty, independence, unity, and development.

All of this shall nurture life, instead of the infamous social evils of persecution, humiliation, disease, and the death of millions of Brazilians.

Jose Sarney has confirmed this commitment in the speech he addressed to the nation announcing that he was fully assuming the presidency. Here I am, Tancredo Neves. We who for so many years have traveled together through the paths of life, here we are by your grave, separated by death.

Here we are to speak about your actions in Sao Joao del Rei, to your brothers, and your hometown people, represented by Helio Garcia, and to your family, led by an extraordinary figure who will go down in Brazilian history for her courage as an example for this nation: Risoleta Neves.

Here I am, Tancredo Neves, to speak in the name of the Chamber of Deputies, and, by an honorable delegation of authority of Senate President Jose Fragelli, in the name of the Senate. These two houses had the privilege of having you as one of their most prominent members.

Here I am also to speak about your Brazilian Democratic Mobilization Party which we founded together and which, with your help, grew strong and emerged victorious. This party, while the opposition, suffered the arbitrary cancellation of the mandate of many of its members; it has now suffered one more: yours, Tancredo Neves, whose mandate as president of the Republic has been canceled by fatality and death.

More than an elected official, you have had the support of the people: when alive, in the hope that you will rule this great nation; when dead, through their tears, prayers, sadness and feelings [words indistinct] in this great country. May God give us courage, Tancredo Neves, and strength to not forget the people and to not overlook them, to follow your example and to honor your memory, Tancredo Neves.

PUBLIC OPINION POLL SHOWS MAJORITY TRUST SARNEY

PY231920 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1434 GMT 23 Apr 85

[Text] According to a poll conducted last weekend by the Brazilian Public Opinion and Statistics Institute (IBOPE), 79.1 percent of the people surveyed in Rio de Janeiro, trust the new Brazilian President Jose Sarney. The results of the poll, which were published today, say that 90.4 percent of the surveyed persons believe that Sarney has done a good job during the past month while substituting for President-elect Tancredo Neves who died on 21 April from a heart insufficiency after a long illness. Finally, 50.4 percent of the surveyed persons expect Sarney to conduct the government well.

SNI CHIEF OUTLINES CURRENT POLICY, TASKS

PY202300 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 19 Apr 85 p 8

["Excerpts" of interview with National Intelligence Service Chief General Ivan de Souza Mendes, by unidentified reporter, in Brasilia; date not given]

[Text] Question: In its recent past, the National Intelligence Service [SNI], has been used for political purposes, what I would like to ask you is this: Under the new Republic, what has changed in the SNI?

Answer: The basic mission of the SNI which I have outlined, has not changed. Now, as to the recent past, I am not willing to accept that the SNI has been used for political purposes. I do not have to worry about what is past, nor do I have to explain anything. The SNI will comply with the regulations set forth in public decrees, and carry on with its mission. I am not interested in looking back. We have to build the future, we have to gather up the stones to build the future and not keep hurling them at the past.

Question: How do you plan to manage the SNI without interfering with the private lives of citizens?

Answer: The SNI does not interfere with the privacy of citizens. The SNI interferes only when a citizen takes action against the interests of the state. I can guarantee that the SNI is not interfering with the private lives of citizens in the broadest sense.

Question: What does the SNI do in the political field? What does it do to be able to keep the president informed about political affairs?

Answer: The SNI gathers information about everything that happens in the country through its various sections. It then analyzes this information and after summarizing it conveys it to the president. The SNI evaluates the situations and tries to make projections of events. Whoever has to make decisions needs information. Those who make decisions based on insufficient information are liable to make mistakes. If they make the right decision it will be by accident. Whereas if an agency or individual that has to make a decision is well-informed, one of the key factors in decisionmaking, that is information, is guaranteed. These information-gathering services can be found in any country. Democratic and totalitarian nations alike have their intelligence services. The more developed, the more advanced a country is, the more interests it has to preserve, the more information it requires and this is our line of work. We must keep working.

Question: Minister, when President Tancredo Neves was taken to Sao Paulo, you were practically put in charge of the information concerning his health. Now that you are back in Brasilia, how are things working out in Sao Paulo?

Answer: I did not go to Sao Paulo as head of the information service, to handle information. I went as a sort of household chief in order to coordinate activities in Sao Paulo, to give support to the president, as President-elect Tancredo Neves has the full support of the office of the president of the nation. Since we left Brasilia under very dramatic conditions, in the predawn hours of the morning, and the team was made up of individuals from various sections of the presidency, someone had to be in charge and set up the operating procedures in the hospital. We are adding enormously to the workload of the Heart Institute, disrupting its activities and the care it must extend to its other patients. Therefore our concern was to reduce this disruption to the extent possible. That is why I stayed in Sao Paulo those days. Once everything was organized and arranged, I was able to come back because my duties are here, in Brasilia.

Question: Minister, many times both President-elect Tancredo Neves and Acting President Jose Sarney have voiced their intentions to change the image of the SNI. After 35 days of your tenure, to what extent has that image changed?

Answer: You are the ones who should know. I do not. I was not aware that President Tancredo or President Sarney were concerned about changing the image. I did not perceive any such connotations in their words. Now, I have tried to keep the service operating along the guidelines set forth by President Tancredo and President Sarney, which means making sure that it fulfills its objectives, that is, its democratic objectives under the new Republic, serves the president and serves the government, as I have said. Whether we will succeed in changing the image, whether the image of the SNI is good or will be good, will depend on me, and also on the goodwill that you may have toward us.

Question: When you were asked to head the SNI, you must have had a work plan, however, Tancredo Neves got sick. What has changed as a result of this illness and the possibility that Tancredo may be unable to take power? What has changed as far as your work is concerned?

Answer: The SNI works according to a plan. This plan is essentially permanent. It is a national intelligence plan of several agencies which together make up the National Intelligence Service. The everyday work of the SNI is to execute this national intelligence plan. This plan is updated periodically and I am thinking about reviewing it because it is time, especially taking into account that the government has changed. However, everything is part of a routine, like in any other service. There is nothing special.

Question: Minister, you were invited by President Tancredo Neves to participate in the new administration. How do you feel now that you have to serve President Jose Sarney?

Answer: I feel no different, because I believed that I would serve President Tancredo Neves, and will do so if he takes power, in the same manner I have been serving President Sarney, that is with dedication and loyalty, as demanded by my functions.

Question: I would like to know whether the SNI has detected any resistance to President Jose Sarney staying in power in case President Tancredo Neves does not recover. What is the true condition of President-elect Tancredo Neves? What information do you have so far? Because the fact is that Dr Pinotti drew a very optimistic picture yesterday...?

Answer: First of all, I have no concrete information about these speculations which have been going around mainly among journalists, if you excuse me, and also among politicians. It is too early for me to be receiving this type of information. As to the president's health, the only thing I can say is what I have been saying all along: The medical bulletins are reflecting exactly what is happening to the president. Ever since the president arrived in Sao Paulo a routine has been followed to keep the Brazilian people faithfully informed about what is happening to him. Sometimes, I feel that too many details are given, medical details which the people do not understand: There is really no point in trying to keep the people in the dark. No effort is being made to keep the people in the dark. Therefore, if you want to know about the president's health, take a look at the latest medical bulletin, that is all I know.

Question: Minister, I would like to know if the so-called household ministers are interested in keeping Acting President Jose Sarney in power for a longer period of time, longer perhaps than is expected?

Answer: My main concern is to carry out my duties day by day. Your question has strong political overtones. I am fulfilling my duties day by day. We obviously have to be, and are, completely loyal to President Sarney in the situation he is in or may be in the future.

Question: Does your concern have to do with seeing that he complies with the Constitution?

Answer: My concern is shared by the entire government. We must all make sure that the Constitution is obeyed. You can hardly expect us to go against the Constitution. I believe that it would be very bad for the country in the present circumstances if we wanted to go against the Constitution or interpret constitutional principles in a slanted, biased manner.

POLITICAL PARTIES EXPRESS SUPPORT FOR SARNEY

PY230327 Porto Alegre Radio Guaiba in Portuguese 0200 GMT 23 Apr 85

[Text] Brazilian President Jose Sarney has termed as excellent a report by National Intelligence Service [SNI] Director Ivan de Souza Medes that the country is absolutely calm. The SNI head also told the president that workers strikes in Sao Paulo, including that of the metalworkers, have been suspended out of respect for the late President Tancredo Neves.

President Jose Sarney arrived at Planalto Palace at 0915, after another sleepless night, and went directly to his office on the third floor.

Meanwhile, messages conveying support for the new president have continued to arrive at Government Palace. One of these messages was conveyed by Brazilian Communist Party [PCB] Secretary General Giocondo Dias, who came to Government Palace for the first time in his life. Dias said that the PCB supports Sarney because he stands for constitutional order, which must be maintained in Brazil under the present circumstances. Giocondo said that he went to Planalto Palace to pay his final respects to Tancredo Neves, the statesman and the man behind the changes in the Brazilian political situation.

Luis Inacio da Silva, Lula, president of the Workers Party [PT], despite his criticism of President Sarney, has stated that the PT supports his taking over as president.

Ivo Lorscheider, president of the National Conference of Brazilian Bishops [CNBB], also has voiced his confidence in President Sarney's ability to keep the nation united and to lead the new Republic. The CNBB president said that the best homage Sarney could pay to the memory of Tancredo Neves is to carry out, as he has promised to do, the ideals of the late president.

REPORTAGE ON REACTION TO U.S. CONGRESS VOTE

Foreign Ministry Silent

PY240300 Santiago Radio Chilena in Spanish 2300 GMT 23 Apr 85

[Excerpts] The vote by the U.S. Congress to reject a suspension of military and economic assistance to Chile elicited some reactions after the news was reported in Santiago. Newsman Jose Francisco Contreras will now give us more details. Good evening, Jose Francisco.

[Begin report] Good evening. Foreign Ministry officials today refused to make any comments on the rejection by the U.S. Congress of an amendment seeking to suspend all military and economic assistance to Chile. The rejection of this draft bill failed to produce a response at the Chilean Foreign Ministry since its officials preferred to make no comments. Foreign Policy General Director Raul Schmid has stated that this is an internal resolution by the U.S. Congress. It is not in our field to make any comment on this decision, Schmid stated. Foreign Under Secretary Colonel Humberto Julio, and Foreign Affairs Spokesman Marcelo Padilla also refused to make any statements. [end report]

Del Valle Comments

PY241854 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1730 GMT 24 Apr 85

[Text] The truth about Chile is gradually being understood in the United States. This statement was made by Foreign Minister Jaime del Valle referring to the rejection by the U.S. Congress of an amendment to suspend economic and military aid to our country. The foreign minister added that this is probably the result of the visits made to Chile by several officials such as Assistant Secretary of State for Inter-American Affairs Langhorne Motley.

[Begin Del Valle recording] This is very good news. It shows that the truth is gradually being learned in the United States. I think this could be the result of some visitors seeing the real situation here in Chile and trying to fight against the distortion of news elsewhere. [end recording]

Asked about the designation of Msgr Juan Francisco Fresno, archbishop of Santiago, as a cardinal, he said that it is an honor for Chile.

Del Valle returned to Santiago after attending, on behalf of the president of the Republic and of the Chilean Government, the funeral of the late Brazilian President-elect Tancredo Neves. In this regard, he said that it was a simple but solemn ceremony, taking into account the large number of officials who were present. Regarding the political situation in Brazil, he said that a consensus exists and everything indicates that things are developing normally.

Navy Chief Satisfied

PY241327 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 24 Apr 85

[Excerpt] Chilean Navy Commander Admiral Jose Toribio Merino has expressed satisfaction over the U.S. Congress decision not to approve a motion against Chile. The Chilean Navy commander stated that the U.S. Congress has realized that Chile is a leading country in the struggle against communism, a struggle to which the United States is also dedicating most of its efforts.

Asked about Chile's image abroad, Merino said that in his opinion it is improving greatly. He added that he has received a number of invitations he will not be able to fulfill for lack of time. He added that the Chilean image abroad is improving because the world is realizing that the so-called Soviet paradise does not exist.

SANTIAGO ARCHBISHOP DROPS CHARGES IN JARLAND CASE

PY231325 Santiago Radio Chilena in Spanish 2300 GMT 22 Apr 85

[Excerpts] [Broadcast in progress]...In the lawsuit being held in the killing of the French priest, Andre Jarland, have explained the reasons which have caused Santiago Archbishop Msgr Juan Francisco Fresno to drop the charges in this case. Among other things, they reported that the charges were dropped because it has been proven that the entire police system, and not just one policeman, is involved in this case. Journalist Angelica Cabello will now give us a report on this issue.

[Begin recording] In a conciliatory gesture, Msgr Fresno on 19 April decided to drop the charges filed in this case. This decision aroused several interpretations, which led to a clarification by attorneys Hector Salazar and Alejandro Gonzalez, who are the plaintiff's attorneys.

One of the reasons for Msgr Fresno to drop the charges is that the truth has been substantially established. In addition, it could be determined that Corporal Leonel (Povea), although acting with carelessness and negligence, did not have any criminal intention. The plaintiff thus feels that the ruling the special judge handed down, rather than facing declaring himself incompetent to hear the case, is a sort of alert, since it calls attention to the people responsible for the institutionalization of a careless police system, rather than just punishing a police officer. [end recording]

FPMR TERRORISTS TO BE TRIED BY MILITARY COURT

PY230222 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 22 Apr 85

[Excerpts] Two subversive criminals who apparently were involved in the dynamite attacks on the newspaper LA NACION and businesses in La Providencia District have been transferred to the military courts. This information was released by the National Social Communications Agency Director Jose Miguel Armendariz.

Armendariz reported that in the past few hours, two subversive criminals who participated in those criminal actions were placed at the disposal of the Third Military Court. They are Daniel Alfaro Basano and Jorge Ariel Cabrera Fuenzalida, who made up the self-styled Manuel Rodriguez Patriotic Front [FPMR] team charged with distributing weapons and explosives.

FIVE SOCIALISTS ARRESTED BY POLICE IN SANTIAGO

PY240305 Paris AFP in Spanish 2212 GMT 23 Apr 85

[Text] Santiago, 23 Apr (AFP) -- Five young members of the Socialist Party of Chile have been arrested in Santiago, and there is no official information on the reason for their arrests, relatives stated today. In an injunction (habeas corpus) filed at the Appellate Court in Santiago, the relatives have asked that the government led by President Augusto Pinochet state the reasons for their arrest.

The injunction states that the arrest took place on 20 April when the police intercepted a car carrying sociologist Patricio Rozas Balbontin, unionist Ramon Montes Parraguez, and students Francisco Zuniga Urbina, Nestor Ortiz Caceres, and Gabriel de la Fuente.

VALDES CRITICIZES COMMUNIST PARTY DOCUMENT

PY191642 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1144 GMT 18 Apr 85

[Text] Santiago, 18 Apr (EFE) -- The leader of the Christian Democratic Party [PDC], Gabriel Valdes, today said that if the Chilean Communist Party [PCCh] insists on shunning the democratic path to achieve democracy, then the dictatorial Pinochet regime will have the apparent support of the PCCh to stay in power. In a letter released today, Valdes criticized the recent report by PCCh Secretary General Luis Corvalan to the party's plenum.

Valdes pointed out that we have reached a crucial historical moment, a time for definitions. He also criticized the Communists for emphasizing the use of violent methods not only in declarations but also through the Manuel Rodriguez Patriotic Front, an organization that has claimed responsibility for several terrorist actions. In this regard, Valdes said that there is only one way to achieve democracy, the democratic way, and that it is not possible for civilian communists and military communists to coexist unless another dictatorship is being prepared beforehand.

The Christian Democratic leader accused the Communists of advocating the belief that because the dictatorship intends to remain in power indefinitely, there is no other strategy than to face it in a prolonged military confrontation. This belief, Valdes stated, is contrary to the beliefs advocated by the PDC.

Gabriel Valdes said that his party opposes violence because it generates more violence, and also because it responds to General Pinochet's desire to have the struggle against the dictatorship exactly where he wants it: in an armed confrontation. Valdes added that in an armed confrontation the Communists will divide into those who advocate peaceful means and those who practice armed confrontation. Those who advocate peaceful means are the Communists' civilian population, who will become cannot fodder for the dictatorship. He labeled the Communsits' efforts to stop any effort to build a democratic socialist force as useful to the strategy of armed confrontation, thus creating a coincidence of views between the dictatorship and the PPCh. Valdes added that the people do not want a civil war. He pointed out that during the Salvador Allende administration, the PCCh warned about the horrors of a civil war.

Valdes said: We know that the PCCh proposals are wrong, and even worse, that they are self-defeating. We are seeking the unity of all Chileans, but on the basis of the concept of a democratic strategy and rules to achieve it. The PDC leader added: The efforts to disqualify us because we do not accept a method that we believe is completely wrong contradicts the call for unity and PCCh has made to the democratic opposition. Valdes pointed out that owing to the painful deaths that have occurred, the contradictions we have mentioned, and the severity of the crisis affecting the country, we are expecting the necessary reflection to find the way to achieve the task we have always advocated: to make Chile a country for all.

In conclusion, Valdes said: The PDC is not used to the language of threats, contempt, and hatred. We only want to state our position clearly, because we understand the sorrow of the PCCh over the murder of its leaders and militants, and because we want to prevent, as much as possible, the reoccurrence of such events.

GOVERNMENT SETS ECONOMIC OBJECTIVES FOR 1985-86

PA240527 Bogota EL SIGLO in Spanish 14 Apr 85 pp 1, 3

[Article by Raul Rodriguez]

[Text] The Colombian Government has defined its economic objectives and goals, by indicating that if it keeps to its adjustment process, Colombia will be able to overcome the obstacles hampering the consolidation of a true reactiviation, during this year and the next.

National Planning Chief Jorge Ospina Sardi unveiled the document entitled "Self-Discipline Towards Development: Macroeconomic Program 1985-86," which was approved by the National Council on Economic and Social Policies and by Colombian President Belisario Betancur Cuartas. The objectives outlined in the document include the following: an inflation rate of 21 percent for this year and 18 percent for next year, a trade surplus at the end of this year, recovery of a real exchange rate, a 23-percent monetary expansion for this year, a minimum reduction of the international reserves and a 2-percent economic growth in 1985, and a 4-percent growth in 1986, a $9.4-billion public foreign debt at the end of 1985 and foreign debt totaling $13.3 billion.

The government's economic document states: "Colombia's current difficulties are temporary. Colombia has a unique situation in terms of the Latin American context thanks to its traditional prudence in handling its economic policies and to the adjustments that have been made since 1983 and which increased in the second half of 1984."

The document adds that Colombia is committed to and has been greatly endeavoring to consolidate and broaden an economic development process based on an evaluated and an effective sense of fairness and social change. It states: "However, it is obvious that a good deal of this effort will depend on the trust, solidarity and commitment the government has to the country, as well as on the private sector's leadership, efficiency and capabilities."

The government has stated that, due to the increased rate of devaluation, and in order for the national currency to recover a true exchange rate that is equivalent to that of 1975, the country will have to become competitive again in the international markets. At the end of this year and as the result of an improvement in the commercial balance and the exchange situation, between 50 and 60 percent of imports will be duty free. To achieve this, the restrictions imposed during the past 2 years will gradually be lifted.

According to the government, the basic economic strategy is to support the development of productive sectors through the application of a selective protection policy for labor and the national industry, fostering exports, and reorienting foreign credit in favor of these exports.

The document continued: "An analysis of the recent inflation process and its implications in economic affairs has led the government to attach special importance to the achievement of a 21-percent inflation rate in 1985 and its eventual recuction to 18 percent in 1986."

At the end of this year's first quarter, the variation index of consumers' prices, accrued during the past few months, reached 22 percent. During this year's second half, however, a smaller rate of increase in prices is anticipated.

Regarding employment, the government has stated that it will succeed in consolidating the economic reactivation and, therefore, reduce unemployment through the private sector's trust and initiative.

Finally, regarding foreign indebtedness, the government has reported that the situation is favorable for Colombia because close to one-third of the debt has been contracted with 12-year amortization periods, while about four-fifths of the foreign debt has grace periods longer than 1 year. In addition, the government has said that the foreign debt, not including that contracted on a short-term basis, will be increased by $1.5 billion this year. If, however, the short-term debt is included, the debt's total by December will amount to $10.75 billion, while the inclusion of the private debt would raise the total figure to $13.1 billion.

RAMIREZ OCAMPO ON GOVERNMENT-FARC TALKS

PA241220 Bogota Emisoras CARACOL Network in Spanish 1215 GMT 23 Apr 85

[Text] Members of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia [FARC] have received all guarantees from the government so they can participate in the electoral process. This was one of the main issues discussed by Government Minister Jaime Castro and FARC General Staff members headed by Manuel Marulanda Velez. CARACOL learned this from Foreign Minister Augusto Ramirez Ocampo, who is the acting president in place of President Belisario Betancur who left for Brasilia to attend the funeral of Brazilian statesman Tancredo Neves. Ramirez Ocampo described the guerrilla leaders meeting with Minister Castro as historical.

Ramirez Ocampo also said that the FARC has reiterated its decision to participate in the electoral process through its new political group called the Patriotic Union. We hope it does; one of the government's objectives has been to make it possible for the rebels to participate in the political process, he said.

Ramirez Ocampo also referred to the 19 April Movement leaders decision to avoid armed clashes with the Army and to return to civilian life so that they can participate in the political process in a lawful manner.

Ramirez Ocampo added that although there were no new proposals presented by the FARC leaders, they did discuss the truce and cease-fire situation with Minister Castro.

ARMY, POLICE BOMB LABORATORIES AIRSTRIPS

PA210022 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0306 GMT 20 Apr 85

[Text] Bogota, 19 Apr (EFE) -- The Colombian Army and police bombed several areas of the Amazon Jungle, in the southern part of the country, after discovering 269 cocaine processing laboratories and 22 clandestine airstrips, according to a report from a military spokesman today. The spokesman did not mention the date of the bombings, called "Operation South," but pointed out that they took place just a few days ago.

The source said the coca brought from Peru and Bolivia was being processed in the Colombian Amazon Jungle. Once processed, the cocaine was transported by air to the United States via an air bridge through the Bahamas Islands, where the planes stopped for refueling.

Apparently, the laboratories and landing strips belonged to the big drug trafficking bosses in Colombia, Pablo Escobar Gavidia, Gonzalo Rodriguez Gacha, and Jorge Luis Ochoa Vasquez, all of whom are out of the country, the source added.

3-DAY MOURNING PERIOD DECREED FOR NEVES

PA230444 Quito Radio Quito in Spanish 2 0 GMT 22 Apr 85

[Text] Today the Foreign Ministry's Information and Press Office announced that the government decreed a 3-day national mourning period to pay tribute to deceased Brazilian President-elect Dr Tancredo Neves.

The president of the Republic, Leon Febres Cordero, sent the following condolence telegram to the new Brazilian president, Jose Sarney:

Profoundly saddened by the death of Dr Tancredo Neves, president-elect of Brazil, allow me to express, in the name of the government and the people of Ecuador, our deepest condolences for the loss of this outstanding American.

CONGRESS PRESIDENT ON DIALOGUE, CONSTITUTION

PA192109 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1130 GMT 19 Apr 85

[Text] Raul Baca Carbo, president of the National Congress, said that it is not just a matter of seeking dialogue, but of respecting the Constitution and state institutions in order to enjoy democracy and offer answers to the people, who cannot live in the midst of violence. Baca Carbo made this statement while commenting on recent statements by the president of the Republic concerning his willingness to hold a dialogue with the various sectors of the opposition.

[Begin recording] [Baca Carbo] It is not just a matter of a dialogue. It is a matter of fulfilling basic needs. First there must be respect for the Constitution. Then, there must be respect for state institutions, which basically means the existence of democracy in our country. Third, it is a matter of answering the people, who cannot accept the idea of living in the midst of violence. The president's current efforts are more than just talking with the opposition, they aim to halt the violence occurring in the Republic which is rejected by all Ecuadoreans.

The Constitution must be respected. To achieve this, dialogues take place, and this encounters no problems. We have just approved a state budget which, while not requiring top-level discussions, represents the joint work of state institutions in fulfilling their duties. This is how I think the president should work during the next few days, months, and remainder of his administration.

[Reporter] The country is wondering what topics could be discussed during a dialogue. What are they?

[Baca Carbo] Now, I think it is important to discuss what has not been decided and what, apparently, some want to forget. The president of the Republic issued a decree that has been promulgated and has become a law of the Republic without having the legal authority of the Constitution. This is an illegal act that must be reviewed; it must be discussed, or Ecuadoreans must at least be constantly reminded of this so they will know that these actions are not authorized by the Constitution or the laws. We hope, and continue to hope, that state institutions will continue to explain these situations. The Tribunal of Constitutional Guarantees has discussed the issue of the illegality of congressional actions. This is a topic that definitely leaves Congress with its mission fulfilled and with no problems. [sentence as heard] The tribunal must now continue demanding that the Constitution be respected and that such illegal and authoritarian actions no longer take place. [end recording]

MINISTER CONFIRMS ATTACK AGAINST ELECTORAL COURT

PY241321 Lima Televisora Lima in Spanish 0430 GMT 24 Apr 85

[Text] Interior Minister General Oscar Brush Noel today confirmed the attack perpetrated against the National Electoral Court in Trujillo, where explosive devices were found. He also said that any measure that the next government may adopt for the benefit of the people will be duly supported.

Court President Wounded

PY242105 Lima Radio Programs del Peru Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 24 Apr 85

[Excerpts] Subversives this morning attacked Electoral Court President Domingo Garcia Rada. The attack took place at 0830 local time as Garcia Rada was riding in his car from his home to the Electoral Court office.

According to witnesses, after a shoot-out, the subversives hurled a briefcase with an explosive device that exploded a few moments later. The attack took place on Roma Street in the San Isidro District, five blocks away from Garcia Rada's home.

It has been reported that the briefcase with dynamite sticks hurled by the terrorists also contained about three pages of the newspaper LA REPUBLICA carrying the following headline: Abimael Reorganizes Terrorist Cadres; Held Summit Meeting With Foreigners in (?Lima). These pages were found beside Garcia Rada's official car.

Garcia Rada, who sustained bullet wounds, was immediately taken to the Police Hospital and his driver Segundo Narro, who was also shot, was taken to the Italian Hospital.

President Belaunde and virtual President-elect Alan Garcia immediately went to the Police Hospital to learn about Garcia Rada's condition.

No information has yet been released on Garcia Rada's condition. Meanwhile, police forces have set up a tight security ring around the hospital.

President Belaunde has confirmed that the Police Hospital will release a medical bulletin on the true condition of Mr Garcia Rada.

[Begin recording] [Belaunde] I have already commented earlier about this nefarious terrorist crime. Our greatest wish now is that Dr Garcia Rada, a prominent and respected magistrate who is loved by all Peruvians, will recover. The doctors will issue a bulletin in a few minutes.

[Reporter] What information did you get?

[Belaunde] Dr Garcia Rada underwent a serious operation. The prognosis is grave. I have just talked to the Police Hospital doctors and with Dr Roca, who was kind enough to come here....

[Reporter, interrupting] Will he talk again?

[Belaunde] They will soon issue a medical bulletin. Thank you. [end recording]

Dr Esteban Roca and other eminent surgeons operated on Dr Garcia Rada, who had his frontal skull bone fractured and splinters lodged in his brain. His condition is extremely serious but the operation was successful!

SECOND ELECTION ROUND TO BE HELD 12 OR 19 MAY

PY241325 Lima Cadena Panamericans Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 24 Apr 85

[Excerpt] Domingo Garcia Rada, president of the National Electoral Court, has announced that the second round of elections will be held on 12 or 19 May not on the 5 May as had been stated previously.

WAR MINISTER QUESTIONS NEED FOR MORE ELECTIONS

PY241435 Lima Television Lima in Spanish 0430 GMT 23 Apr 85

[Excerpts] War Minister General Julian Julia Freyre today referred to the second round of elections and the possibility of participating in the next constitutional government's cabinet.

[Begin report] [Reporter] What about the rumors that you will participate in the American Revolutionary Popular Action's cabinet?

[Julia] Well, all I know is that this was stated in a CARETAS magazine article.

[Reporter] In your opinion do you think there should be a second round of elections?

[Julia] I do not agree that a second round of elections should be held but we must abide by the Constitution.

[Reporter] Why do you disagree with a second round?

[Julia] In the first place, because of the time, the valuable time, we would waste. A new government, and the Armed Forces experiences this, a change of course, the understanding of a new task requires time. One has to have time to become acquainted with the situation of the various sectors and a second round of elections will only use up the new government's time. Second, it is expensive to deploy security forces, the members of the National Electoral Court, the distribution of ballot boxes, and so on. [end recording]

AGRICULTURE MINISTER MAY JOIN APRA CABINET

PY191640 Lima Cadena America Television in Spanish 0355 GMT 19 Apr 85

[Text] The present agricultural minister, Juan Carlos Hurtado Miller, reportedly will be a member of the likely American Revolutionary Popular Alliance [APRA] cabinet. Hurtado Miller himself hinted at the possibility. Here are Hurtado Miller's comments:

[Begin recording] [Hurtado Miller] Any type of cooperation by any cabinet member must be (?discussed) by the party. I am a Popular Action Member, and the party's executive board, especially party leader President Belaunde, is the one who must make a decision on any cooperation.

[Reporter] Personally, would you be willing to participate?

[Hurtado Miller] That would be the party's and President Belaunde's decision. If their decision is in the affirmative, then (?why not)...

[Reporter, interrupting] I would like to know whether there actually is a proposal?

[Hurtado Miller] I have not received a proposal directly from him.

[Question indistinct]

[Hurtado Millller] No, these are just the usual rumors... [end recording-- in progress]

FUTURE COMPOSITION OF CONGRESS HIGHLIGHTED

PY191529 Paris AFP in Spanish 1712 GMT 18 Apr 85

[Text] Lima, 18 Apr (AFP) -- Voters of the Marxist United Left (IU) did not succeed in electing the independent candidates included in the IU slate for Congress. According to unofficial reports, the Alan Garcia-led American Revolutionary Popular Alliance APRA, which won the 14 April elections, will have a majority in the Peruvian Congress.

The IU voters' rejection of the independent candidates is interpreted as a blow to the leadership of Alfonso Barrantes, who placed second in the presidential race, since he had asked the independent candidates to join the IU slate to strengthen his position as a socialist leader not affiliated with any party.

Voters of the other two major parties, APRA and Democratic Convergence [CODE], an alliance between Popular Christian Party members and APRA dissidents, elected nearly all the independent candidates included in the APRA and CODE slates.

Congress, which APRA regards as the principal branch of government, will thus have the following distribution of seats:

The Senate: 60 seats: APRA, 32; IU, 16; CODE, 8; and AP (Popular Action, the ruling party), 4.

The Chamber of Deputies: 180 seats: APRA, 107; IU, 48; CODE, 18; and AP, 7.

The right and the center have lost seats in Congress, and the small parties and those that ran the candidates of General Francisco Morales Bermudez, Roger Caceres (Indian movement), and Ricardo Napuri (Trotskiyite) did not win any congressional seats.

The IU voters elected leaders of the various groups that make up the IU front, but eliminated the following independent senatorial candidates: Alberto Gisecke, a scientist; Francisco Guerra, a former collaborator of the military regime; Alejandro Romualdo, a novelist; Abelardo Oquendo, a writer; and Efrain Ruiz, a journalist.

A similar number of little-known independent candidates to the Chamber of Deputies was eliminated by the IU voters, with the exception of Diego Garcia Sayan and Marcial Rubio.

The APRA, which managed to elect fewer independent candidates than expected, elected economist Javier Silva Ruete as senator and Miguel Cavero and Aurelio Loret the Mola as deputies. APRA also elected three members of its ally, the Christian Democratic Party, including PDC President Carlos Blancas, as deputies.

CODE elected the following independent candidates as senators: Esteban Roca, a neurosurgeon; Enrique Chirinos, a jurist, and all candidates of the Hayistas Bases Movement (APRA dissidents): Andres Towsend, Francisco Diaz Canseco, and Alberto Borea.

The new Congress will appoint its board and committees during the week preceding 28 July, when President Fernando Belaunde will hand the presidential sash over to Alan Garcia, who will than deliver a message to the nation.

FUTURE ECONOMY MINISTER OUTLINES NEW PLAN

PY192150 Paris AFP in Spanish 1219 GMT 19 Apr 85

[Excerpts] Lima, 19 Apr (AFP) -- The next Peruvian Government, which will be headed by the American Revoltuionary Popular Alliance (APRA), will directly negotiate its foreign debt with the creditor banks without the mediation of the IMF, President-elect Alan Garcia and future Economy Minister Javier Silva Ruete said here.

Silva Ruete, who has just been elected a senator in the elections and who also is a former economy minister of the previous military regime, has said that Alan Garcia's administration will follow an independent line from the IMF, but without actually breaking away from this organization.

During a luncheon given by the diplomatic missions accredited to Peru, Silva Ruete said that although the position to be adopted by the new government is uncommon, it is not new. The negotiations will be carried out with the same criteria used by Costa Rica and Nicaragua which before negotiating with the IMF, first negotiated with their creditor banks.

From the legal point of view, he said, no country has the obligation to first contact the IMF to negotiate its debt with international banks, and the negotiating procedure used in the last few years simply responds to a norm of conduct which by no means should be considered as an obligation.

Silva Ruete also said that the APRA administration will put in force a 5-point economic plan in order to overcome the current crisis as soon as Belaunde transfers his power on 28 July. This plan envisages a restructuring of the foreign debt with terms of 15 or 20 years for repayment.

The most important thing about the negotiation, Silva said, is to reduce the interest rate, which should not be greater than two points over the inflation rate of the creditor country. As an example, he referred to the United States, which has a 4-percent inflation rate, and which should therefore charge a 6-percent interest rate.

Another decision made by the new government is to reduce the fiscal deficit by eliminating all superfluous expenses and by implementing a real austerity policy at all levels.

Silva Ruete said that revenue income will be improved by eliminating unfair tax exemptions. Apparently, he was referring to foreign oil companies, U.S. Occidental and Belco companies, which, according to some analysts, were exempted from tax payments for $500 million during Belaunde's administration.

He also announced protection mechanisms aimed at reactivating industrial production, and the implementation of programs of massive employment, mainly in the agricultural sector.

Silva Ruete's statements were followed carefully by about 100 diplomatic representatives, particularly by the economic attaches of all the countries with which Peru maintains relations.

UNITED LEFT'S BARRANTES DISCUSSES DEBT, ELECTION

PY222240 Paris AFP in Spanish 1433 GMT 21 Apr 85

[Text] Lima, 21 Apr (AFP) -- Alfonso Barrantes Lingan, the leader of the United Left (IU), today stated that the foreign debt has definitely stopped being an economic issue and has become a political issue.

Barrantes will face Alan Garcia, the leader of the American Revolutionary Popular Alliance [APRA], in the presidential runoff election.

Barrantes, the socialist mayor of Lima, returned from Mexico, where he attended a meeting of Latin American mayors. He said: A moratorium or extensions of 5, 10, or 20 years will be useless since we will continue to be debtors, and as such all we can do is contribute to reducing the U.S. deficit.

It is necessary, Barrantes said, to find a remedy to this evil: a coordinated Latin American action to face this evil.

Barrantes also said that he is sure he will win the runoff election to be held in May, since all those who voted for APRA leader Alan Garcia, who had an overwhelming victory in the 14 April election, were not necessarily APRA members but many of them were dissatisfied members of the ruling party.

Barrantes concluded by stating that the Peruvian election has been praised in Mexico and elsewhere in the world. He added that the election was instrumental in dispelling the bad international Peruvian image because it was believed in some countries that the Shining Path was already at the door of Government Palace.

EL SALVADOR'S GUILLERMO UNGO MEETS BARRANTES

PY241324 Lima Cadena America Television in Spanish 0330 GMT 24 Apr 85

[Excerpts] The Salvadoran Democratic Revolutionary Front seeks peace through a dialogue with President Duarte's government. This was stated today by the leader of the organization, Guillermo Ungo, who held a meeting with Lima Mayor Alfonso Barrantes.

[Begin report] [Reporter] What do you have to say about the victory of the American Revolutionary Popular Alliance?

[Ungo] I think that it is a democratic victory, a victory of the people, that on the whole shows that the progressive forces represented the overwhelming majority in these election. [end report]

DEFENSE MINISTER ON REDUCING ARMED FORCES

PY242240 Montevideo EL DIA in Spanish 15 Apr 85 p 5

[Interview with Defense Minister Juan Vicente Chiarino, by unidentified reporter, in Montevideo -- no date given]

[Excerpts] Question: Are there any plans for a gradual reduction of the members of the Armed Forces? Is a reorganization or reduction of the intelligence services feasible?

Chiarino: The Armed Forces have three intelligence services: the Army, Navy, and Air Force. In addition to that there is the Defense Intelligence Service (SID) that practically operates within the Army, a service which is being run by General Washington Varela.

I have asked for confidential information to find out how these services operate, and what missions they have. Some reductions may be carried out in that area, because we have the obligation to do this. The president said in a recent speech with remarkable clarity and frankness that a great effort must be made to reduce the budget.

I believe that there is no other choice than to gradually cut down as much as possible. I would never sign a decree to bring misery to 10,000 or 15,000 families. One of the solutions is not to fill vacancies although there are now fewer vacancies than in previous years. The greatest percentage of vacancies took place during the Punta del Este construction boom when many soldiers left, attracted by better pay in the construction field.

This week I offered to Education and Culture Minister Adela Reta, Army labor to build the Berro School. The Education Ministry was very grateful and accepted the offer. This is a contribution.

Question: Within the framework you just talked about, could any other type of reorganization be carried out?

Chiarino: A study may be carried out for creation of military agricultural settlements. A study would have to be made to see how this initiative can be coordinated with other colonization plans.

For example, I hope that we will have the opportunity to transfer some soldiers to other ministries to get them involved in some public works.

Once the soldiers realize that their duties in the garrisons cannot be maintained they will accept the opportunity to change their activities. When public work projects emerge I plan to meet with Minister Jorge Sanguinetti to discuss the projects, because we are not going to come down to the desired level only by counting on regular retirements and discharges.

In other words, the number of members of the Armed Forces should be reduced because they are excessive (65,000 military and police personnel) for the country. We should go back to the figures of 1973 or 1974 which were 50 percent less than the current figures.

Question: What is going to happen to the National Security and Defense School?

Chiarino: I discussed this issue the day before yesterday with the commanders of the Armed Forces who said they agree in seeking an adequate solution. This issue should be thoroughly analyzed. This organization is in good hands because it is run by General Barrios who is totally trustworthy.

Military expenditures are being contained although there is an aspect which cannot be overlooked: maintenance tasks.

Question: Has the existence of military meetings to study the current situation of the country proven worthwhile?

Chiarino: A great deal of exaggeration has been made on this issue. Rumors begin with little information, but the ones telling them add more without any need. At the end the rumor gets out of proportion. I do not believe that such a blunder is likely. There is no environment for it to happen, the people are not behind it. Besides, there is a great heritage in the Armed Forces, which are not necessarily guilty of everything that has happened, because many civilians who participated in the previous government lead the state apparatus sometimes with more impetus than the military men themselves, leading them to make mistakes over issues that the military men did not understand.

Naturally retired officers hold meetings and there is nothing wrong with this. What are the military clubs for? They talk about all kinds of things, and if they are retired officers they can certainly talk about them.

Question: How do you evaluate the national situation after 1 and 1/2 months of democratic government?

Chiarino: I look at the situation with some uneasiness, because I do not believe that the demands made by the officials freely elected by the people are being heard in their full dimension. There is some impatience over which I am very concerned. I understand that there are basic needs in many homes in this country because salaries are not enough for a reasonable life. But what I do not understand is the method being used because, regarding salaries, we are moving by the best intentions, beginning with the president of the Republic. Where are the strikes taking place in the country, which even involve the activities of the government, going to lead? Or is it that there is no confidence that the government leaders are going to do what they have committed themselves to do. The government is making a great effort to improve the conditions of the Uruguayan people. We have inherited a worse situation than we expected. The figures reveal that the situation of the country is worse than expected. More time is needed. We cannot come out of the critical situation affecting the country right away. I have confidence in the Republic, in the common sense of the people. There is no need to aggravate the situation, but to help in everybody's task by showing some maturity. There is a need to cooperate with fairness and sound judgment.

PRESIDENT, OFFICIALS DISCUSS BANKING SYSTEM

FL241642 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0105 GMT 23 Apr 85

[Text] Mexico City, 23 Apr (NOTIMEX) -- President Miguel de la Madrid today gave instructions to officials of the country's banking and financial system to keep the nation's problems in mind and to support Mexico's plans and programs for development. He ordered them to participate in specific development programs through the promotion of new enterprises and the expansion of existing ones. He emphasized that to do this it is fundamental to coordinate the different kinds of banks and revise the credit-channeling system.

In a private meeting with Finance Secretary Jesus Silva Herzog, Carlos Gutierrez, deputy finance secretary for banking; and Jose Juan de Olloqui, president of the Mexican Banking Association, and other officials, De la Madrid listed the directives that will guide the activities of these institutions and received a report on the problems and programs of the banking system and on development. He stressed the need for the banking system to support business groups, which with good faith and vigor are promoting investments and projects aimed at overcoming the crises and recovering economic growth and social development levels.

Silva Herzog said the National Bank has performed particularly well in its adherence to national goals and its contribution to the government's development plans and programs.

Carlos Sales Gutierrez discussed the basic role of banks, the restructuring of the economy, and structural change. He also explained the strict application of austerity programs and advances in the banking sector's productivity and efficiency. He informed the president on the fulfillment of indemnification commitments, the sale of excess assets, compliance with legal rulings guiding banking activity, and the new configuration of national, regional, and multiregional banks.

Jose Juan de Olloqui, president of the Mexican Banking Association, confirmed that there had been advances in the areas of financial intermediation, relations with the international banking situation, relations between banks and trade unions, and the decentralization of regional banking centers.

FINANCE OFFICIAL REPORTS FOREIGN DEBT INCREASE

FL191456 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2110 GMT 16 Apr 85

[Text] Mexico City, 18 Apr (NOTIMEX) -- During 1984 the country's foreign debt increased by $332.7 million, reaching an outstanding balance of $69.377 billion, Finance Under Secretary Francisco Suarez Davila has reported.

The fourth report on the 1984 public debt, made public at the union congress' standing committee points out that the public debt is no longer an obstacle for the country's healthy and steady growth and that Mexico is complying with its foreign commitments.

Out of Mexico's indebtedness with world banks, 53.1 percent goes to financial mediation, 46.8 percent to the controled parastatal sector, and one-tenth of a percent to other non-financial institutions. The report submitted by the finance under secretary says the federal government's foreign debt rose by more than 5.6 trillion pesos, of which 99.2 percent of the difference resulted from the increase in several national bank system liabilities.

FINANCE SECRETARIAT ON ECONOMIC GROWTH REPORT

FL222055 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1659 GMT 20 Apr 85

[Excerpts] Mexico City, 20 Apr (NOTIMEX) -- During 1984, Mexico's economy was steadily reactivated, although somewhat moderately, and the permanent employment rate inched upward by 1.1 percent compared to the previous year, the public finance and economic report for the last 3 months of 1984, which was submitted by the Secretariat of Finance to Mexico's Chamber of Deputies, has shown.

The document indicates that the economy's growth was due to increased export demands that allowed private investments to grow by (?8.8) in real terms. It also says that inflation during 1984's last 3 months amounted to 59.2 percent, almost 22 points below 1983's rate.

Trade generated a favorable balance of $12.799 billion. The areas of greatest growth were agricultural and livestock exports which reached 22.9 percent and the manufacturing industry 19 percent.

The report indicates that as a result of a broader export diversification, oil participation in exports was reduced from 71.8 percent in 1983 to 69 percent in 1984. Tourism showed a favorable balance of $1,185,700,000.

The Secretariat of Finance acknowledges that the 1984 economic deficit was 6.4 percent higher than the original estimate but it was nearly 3 points lower than the Gross National Product compared to the one recorded in 1983.

The federal government income amounted to 4.943 trillion pesos (over $20.688 billion), created mainly by the good performance of the income tax and special production and service taxes.

FEDERAL POLICE SEIZE 12 KG OF COCAINE AT AIRPORT

FL242002 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1920 GMT 24 Apr 85

[Text] Mexico City, 24 Apr (NOTIMEX) -- More than 12 KG of pure cocaine valued at 13.6 million pesos (about $60 million) that arrived on flights from Colombia and Peru have been seized by federal police at Mexico City International Airport.

The Federal Judicial Police (PJF) has reported that the Bolivian Santiago Costa, who arrived in Mexico City on flight 622 of Peru Airlines, was found to have in his possession a bathrobe and set of towels that had been impregnated with 7 kg of cocaine.

The PJF also reported it had arrested a Colombian couple consisting of Luz Mary Vasquesz, who was transporting 106 capsules filled with cocaine in her stomach, and her husband, Jose Muro Ramirez, who had swallowed another 70 capsules to get them into Mexico, for a total of 930 grams of cocaine.

COSTA RICA

EDITORIAL ON 'NICARAGUAN COMMUNISTS,' REAGAN PLAN

PA240218 San Jose LA PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 11 Apr 85 P 12

[Editorial: "Unmasking"]

[Text] Many will question President Reagan's intentions for proposing, as he has already done, a peace plan for Nicaragua, which basically consists of an honest and fair dialogue among the conflicting parties.

It is almost impossible to have an equitable peace in a country where totalitarianism is the absolute power and denies all notions of equity. Even if we accept peace as a simple warless situation, this cannot be obtained as long as there are Nicaraguans, fully justified, that feel that their revolution was betrayed and their country sold out.

Even if we are not too demanding, there is not the least possibility of having a formal peace, if the conflicting parties do not agree to hold a dialogue. The Nicaraguan communists who already feel that they have consolidated their bondage to the USSR, will hardly accept a dialogue, regardless of its results, because they feel that it would be admitting to the world that there is a legitimate valid opposition.

The tactic of the communist regimes and of any totalitarian regime, despite its ideologies to consolidate its positions and to stay in power, is to play a double role, on the one hand, they drastically repress all internal opposition, and on the other, they publicly deny the existence of such a thing as repression. By refusing to hold a dialogue, the communists can say that in the mountains of Nicaragua there are only a few Somozist guardsmen struggling. This is a fallacy that would be too obvious for other nations to accept, because if they agree to a dialogue, they will have to face men of proven democratic call, as are the majority of the men of the Nicaraguan opposition.

It is evident that the communists only understand peace when it serves their own purpose; that is why they do not understand the intentions behind President Reagan's peace plan. The communists will obviously try to misinterpret his intentions by making it appear as a farce to prevent Congress from voting aid for the Nicaraguan democrats.

Reagan's initiative basically proves that Nicaragua is not interested in a just peace. The Contadora Group has not gone beyond the narrow path of good intentions. While the diplomats talk and talk, the Nicaraguan communists are increasing and consolidating their repressive machine.

Reagan's proposal is practical. The goals are near and clear, free from euphemism and diplomatic verbiage. But the communists are not going to accept it. They are afraid of dialogue. Yet, they and their turncoats demand dialogue in other countries, such as El Salvador, where they are not in power. They will only hold a dialogue when it is in their favor. Never against their dictatorship.

The Nicaraguan Government's refusal to accept Reagan's proposal, we imagine, will be valid testimony to a sector of the U.S. population, which is often too naive. They will realize that it is neither the Somozists nor the United States who are against peace, but rather the communist totalitarians who are blocking it.

Confirmed democratic Nicaraguans, such as Msgr Miguel Obando y Bravo, have been clear and forceful in criticizing the Sandinist government for refusing to hold a dialogue that can lead to peace. In view of the facts, the communist propaganda which tries to hide the truth with flimsy pretexts and supported by the unfounded statements issued by the servile Argentine winner of the Nobel Prize, will be of little value.

EL SALVADOR

ARMY OFFICERS SAID TO STEAL REFUGEE SUPPLIES

PA211241 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 21 Apr 85

[Excerpts] With sufficient justification refugees from Morazan who reside in San Francisco Gotera complain that they have been abandoned. They demand their rights to jobs, medical assistance, and sustenance for their children. However, while these 12,000 refugees face the most dire living conditions, Colonel Maravilla, just as Colonel Cruz did before him, fills his pockets with money obtained through corruption. The Americans send millions of dollars to the country so the Armed Forces can change its criminal image through the distribution of food to refugees and people who live in the zones of conflict. However, these corrupt and murderous military men benefit from those supplies and also use the bombs sent by the Americans.

If the FMLN did not wage war on the colonels and the U.S. warmongers, they would never remember the people's hunger, they would never think of sharing even a pound of beans.

Despite all of this, the colonels are the ones who worry about capturing and murdering defenseless civilians. They are concerned with stealing large quantities of food to later sell at high prices to these same needy and impoverished people. Col Maravilla, Colonel Mendez, and so many other murderous and corrupt military men have no compunction about selling the milk,, beans, lard, corn, and other products sent to be shared among the refugees and the people who live in the zones of conflict. They care nothing about the people's hunger and lack of medical attention. They care nothing about the thousands of children who die of disease and malnutrition. People of the war zones, each time the Army comes to your town or canton, demand that they share the food, because those supplies belong to you!

FMLN ALLEGES ARMY REPRESSION IN JUCUARAN

PA211219 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 21 Apr 85

[Text] We have received reports from Jucuaran, Usulutan Department. The people of Jucuaran report a series of abuses by the puppet Armed Forces. The people say that the ill-named Belloso Battalion and troops from the 6th Infantry Brigade in Usulutan have imposed a local commander and forced 90 persons to join the Civil Defense, although the entire town has told the Armed Forces that they do not need weapons.

The report adds: The people do not need weapons; they need the Armed Forces to leave the town and allow them to work in peace. Ever since the dictatorship forces arrived the people of Jucuaran have been unable to carry out their farming chores in peace, because the Armed Forces -- out of fear of the guerrillas and because they are cowardly and irresponsible -- have placed a large quantity of mines and explosives in the areas surrounding Jucuaran. This report from that region adds that so far three persons have been blown up by the mines, including a little girl, and several persons have been seriously injured. The report states that one of those killed by the mines in Jucuaran was Mariano Carranza, a 40-year-old farmer. They have promised to send us the names of more Armed Forces victims in Jucuaran.

In addition to these reports, they add that domestic animals are constantly being killed by the mines, pigs and cattle included.

The people in nearby cantons also live in fear and are unable to work because they are targets for mortar and [word indistinct] machine-gun fire. Armed Forces activity in this area is part of the economic-social plan promoted by the Duarte regime, but the people of the area say that in reality it is a large-scale operation of intimidation, repression, and violation of their human rights. It is a large-scale counter-insurgency plan organized by the U.S. advisers. This plan results in persons wounded and killed, a lack of jobs, repression, and violation of human rights for the people of Jucuaran.

FMLN-FDR DEMANDS INFORMATION ON YANETH SAMOUR

PA240025 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 23 Apr 85

[Statement by FMLN-FDR issied on 22 April; place not given]

[Text] Today, 22 April, we learned of a communique issued by the Defense Ministry in which it admits that Companeros Commander Miguel Castellanos and Nidia Diaz have been captured. Yesterday the FMLN-FDR issued a communique demanding that Jose Napoleon Duarte's government and the Armed Forces high commaud admit to the arrest of our companeros and of Yaneth Samour who was captured on 30 December 1984 in San Miguel by National Guardsmen. Companero Yaneth Samour's case was deliberately omitted from the Defense Ministry's communique released today. Whereas, in accordance to the Geneva agreements, the Ayagualo agreements, and the FMLN policy of respect for prisoners of war, we demand that Jose Napoleon Duarte's government and the Armed Forces high command acknowledge the arrest of Commander Yaneth Samour and that they respect her physical and moral integrity as a prisoner of war.

The government and the Armed Forces are practicing a capture and disappearing policy against Salvadorans who are and are not involved in the current conflict. The fact that the Defense Ministry has admitted to the capture of Commander Nidia Diaz and Commander Miguel Castellanos does not represent a change in this policy, but rather an action intended to ease the political effects that their status on missing persons would create since Nidia Diaz was an FMLN-FDR representative at the meeting with the government held in La Palma. The capture of Commander Miguel Castellanos had to be acknowledged because his case was reported almost at the same time that Nidia Diaz' arrest was reported. This forced the government to admit to both arrests. The government and the Armed Forces must remember that within the framework of a war the two parties will be subject to capture, therefore, a policy of kidnappings and disappearances would seriously damage the perspectives for the humanization of the conflict.

We urge the Salvadoran Catholic Church, the International Red Cross, and local and foreign organizations that struggle for the defense of human rights to carry out new efforts with the government and the Armed Forces to clarify the situation of Companera Yaneth Samour. United to fight until final victory; revolution or death we will win! With unity towards victory!

[Signed] FMLN General Command, FDR Executive Committee

BRAZ 'SABOTAGES' ELECTRICITY IN EL JOBO CANTON

PA231604 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 23 Apr 85

[Text] According to a report from our guerrilla units, at 2300 on Saturday, guerrilla units belonging to the Rafael Arce Zablah Brigade [BRAZ] sabotaged eight electricity pylons in El Jobo canton. Two electricity transformers were destroyed. All of this is part of our campaign of sabotage against the Duarte government's war economy.

Just as we are damaging and downing the dictatorship's helicopters and other aircraft, we are also tearing to shreds the millions of dollars Reagan is sending to El Salvador to maintain his policies of death and aggression.

HONDURAS

LEADERS EXPRESS CONDOLENCES AT BRAZILIAN EMBASSY

PA241231 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0114 GMT 24 Apr 85

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 23 Apr (ACAN-EFE) -- Today, Honduran President Roberto Suazo Cordova and Foreign Minister Edgardo Paz Barnica personally presented their condolences at the Brazilian Embassy over the death of that country's president-elect, Tancredo Neves. Suazo Cordova and Paz Barnica arrived at the Brazilian Embassy this morning and expressed their grief in the midst of a solidarity embrace with Charge d'Affaires Sergio Tamm.

The president and foreign minister have sent condolence messages to Jose Sarney, who is now in charge of the Brazilian presidency. Suazo Cordova said in his cable that "President Neves was a permanent symbol of the struggle and democratic restoration in America, and his example inspires us to work tirelessly to strengthen the regimes of justice and liberty on our continent." Meanwhile, Paz Barnica said that "the death of such a distinguished democrat comes at a time in history when the Brazilian people had decided to consolidate their destiny of peace, liberty, and progress through expression of their sovereign will."

NICARAGUA

ORTEGA CONFIRMS TRIP TO SEEK ASSISTANCE FROM USSR

PA250038 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2344 GMT 24 Apr 85

[Text] Managua, 24 Apr (ACAN-EFE) -- President Daniel Ortega today confirmed his trip to the Soviet Union in late April to make economic arrangements that will allow Nicaragua "to recoup what the United States is denying it." The Nicaraguan president said that the Soviet Union is one of the socialist countries that has cooperated with the revolution and again accused Ronald Reagan's administration of "boycotting Nicaragua economically."

Daniel Ortega accused the United States of blocking a $58-million IDB loan to Nicaragua. "We are bound to seek cooperation elsewhere," the top Sandinist leader said.

Neither Ortega nor any official source confirmed the exact date of his departure for Moscow or the number of days he will stay in the Soviet Union. The Nicaraguan president asserted that his government maintains relations with all countries in the world and, therefore, he will go to the Soviet Union to seek technical and scientific assistance to develop the country. Official sources described Ortega's trip to Moscow as a "working visit."

Regarding the rejection by the U.S. House of Representatives of a $14-million donation to the anti-Sandinist groups, Ortega said that this attitude "is a favorable gesture to seek a solution to the problem." The U.S. Senate approved the $14-million appropriation to the "counterrevolutionaries" who are trying to overthrow the Sandinist regime, but Ronald Reagan's proposal was rejected by the House of Representatives.

The Nicaraguan president said that his government "would not frown" if the $14-million aid was to be given to the relatives of the "contras" who are taking refuge in Costa Rica and Honduras. However, he made it clear that: "This would depend on the mechanisms that are used, because the contras have been denied assistance on other occasions but President Reagan has used other ways to assist the counterrevolution."

MIGUEL D'ESCOTO DISCUSSES U.S. CONGRESS VOTE

PA250543 Managua International Service in Spanish 0340 GMT 25 Apr 85

[Interview with Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto Brockman by correspondent Noel; place not given -- live]

[Text] [Noel] We are with Father Miguel D'Escoto Brockman. We would like to ask him to comment on today's voting in the U.S. Congress, specifically in the House of Representatives. What about the three proposals that were voted on today?

[D'Escoto] I would say first of all that it is important to understand clearly that what the U.S. Congress decided on at today's historic voting was on what would be the nature of the U.S. Government. In asking Congress to approve $14 million to continue financing Calero and company, that is, the CIA butchers, so that they may continue murdering our people, the U.S. Congress was being asked to give bipartisan support to the policy of state terrorism being sponsored by President Reagan.

The U.S. Congress was being asked to give the U.S. President the green light to continue to act outside the law and aganst all the norms of civilized coexistence that the United States, as a member of the United Nations and its Security Council, has the obligation to respect.

The representatives of the people, that is, the U.S. congressmen, loyal to the will of their people, responded with a strong no, a categorical no, to President Reagan. They said no to state banditry. They said yes to true democrats who want peace and they rejected the bullies who believe that military and economic superiority gives them the right to act as if they were the owners and masters of the world.

It is evident that this voting represents an important victory for millions of North Americans who want a congress they can feel proud of. The Nicaraguan people and government also view the result of this voting as something positive. However, we must be clear on this: President Reagan has said that regardless of the voting in Congress, he will never abandon his brothers, as he usally callls the CIA mercenaries. He has said that he will continue violating all the laws and he will continue to look for ways to finance crime and the destruction of Nicaragua. This is basically what President Reagan meant when he said that he will not abandon his brothers regardless of the voting in the U.S. Congress.

However, we would like to believe that this rejection of his policy by the U.S. Congress, will make President Reagan think twice and that he will decide to resume bilateral talks in Manzanillo in order to normalize relations between the two countries. Nicaragua, our people, and our government want good relations with the United States. The American people also want the same thing. If President Reagan decides to obey the will of his people, then we will be at the threshold of a new era in Nicaraguan-U.S. relations. For the time being, I can assert that we will continue to work with all our energy to achieve this goal of normalizing our relations with the United States.

However, we should harbor no hopes, because the war has not ended. The war goes on. The CIA continues to direct the mercenaries and to seek other sources of financing. The step taken today is an important step because it isolates the President; the Congress has said it will no longer be an accomplice to his policy (?against another) state. Consequently, this step has isolated the President, but he has the capacity, and has asserted his willingness, to continue doing evil things. At least, he has given no sign that lets us think otherwise.

Lastly, I would like to say that, even though we are ready and wish to talk with the United States, with President Reagan's government, we will never, under no kind of imaginable pressure, talk with the people's executioners, who are nothing more than the CIA's henchmen.

[Noel] Father, the Nicaraguan people are listening closely right now, so we must ask you: What has happened with the three proposals that some sectors of our people called three different ways of seeking support for the counterrevolution -- which is financed by the CIA? What happened exactly at the House of Representatives?

[D'Escoto] Well, we will make a quick, not too technical, summary. To be frank, all this congressional procedure might be somewhat complicated for our people, for the U.S. people, and for any people. First, the U.S. Congress has two houses, the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives. The Senate voted first regarding President Reagan's proposal, his request for $14 million to continue waging the war -- even though he said a 2-month truce could be given if Nicaragua reached an agreement with the contras -- you know about that proposal. The U.S. Senate approved this proposal.

Then comes the House of Representatives, where the representatives rejected Reagan's proposal. Then they presented a new proposal, an alternative, prepared by Representative Michael Barnes and amended by Representative Hamilton. This was evidently different; it said that the $14 million should be used... [rephrases himself] that $4 million should be used to help the Contadora Group carry out its supervisory and control role during the enforcement of the agreements; it also said that $10 million should be used to resettle the mercenaries. This would be administered either by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees or the Red Cross. It also included several other proposals. The amendment was approved [corrects himself] I mean, the proposal was approved.

An amendment was then presented to the proposal by the Republican leader in the House of Representatives, Michel, but it lost by a narrow margin. Following this, since no new amendment was presented, they decided to vote again regarding Barnes' proposal. Then all those who had initially proposed it voted against it. Consequently, the House of Representatives has approved nothing; it has categorically rejected President Reagan's proposal and it has also rejected alternatives and amendments to the proposal. It has rejected everything.

Therefore, since there is nothing to reconcile between the U.S. Senate and the House of Representatives, because the latter has nothing, no one can predict what will happen. News reports talk about a conference committee; this is a meeting between representatives of the two houses to reconcile bills on which there is not full agreement. However, there is nothing to reconcile in this case because the House of Representatives has nothing. Thus, the entire process concluded there, and Reagan's proposal was overwhelmingly and categorically defeated.

Of course, on any matter it falls to the U.S. Congress to decide whether the United States will grant the funds that the U.S. President requests. In this case the funds were requested to make war on Nicaragua, an undeclared but illegal war, and one that is also very dirty and very bloody, which the United States has waged against Nicaragua ever since President Reagan took office.

How do I characterize the vote? I think it has been positive, and I would say that more than anything it is a victory for the people of the United States, the true democrats, and the many U.S. Christian groups that have mobilized from north to south and east to west against this war, which as they have seen, is not only illegal but immoral and criminal. This has been a success for that constant stream of U.S. citizens who have come to Nicaragua and have spent entire nights and months in vigils and prayers on the border, in Jalapa; it has been a success for them. It is also a success for all those representatives of the people who are members of the U.S. Congress. This is very positive for Nicaragua but we cannot say that the United States is doing us a favor. The United States has done itself a favor because this step could be the beginning of a way for the United States to recover, before world public opinion, a little of the prestige it has been losing rapidly due to its total disresprect for the most basic laws.

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENTARIANS ARRIVE IN MANAGUA

PA240330 Managua Sistema Sandinista Television Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 23 Apr 85

[Text] A delegation of the European Parliament arrived in Nicaragua today. The delegation was welcomed by National Assembly members headed by Deputy Commander Rafael Solis, secretary of the Nicaraguan Assembly. The delegation of the European Parliament's Socialist and Communst groups, headed by the leaders of the two groups, has arrived in Nicaragua at the invitation of Commander Carlos Nunez, chairman of the National Assembly. The European parliamentarians talked with journalists.

[Begin recording of unidentified person] We have come to Managua to better learn about the country's situation, strengthen the relations between Nicaragua and the European Community, and contribute to the solution of the existing problems in Central America in a spirit of friendliness and cooperation. The nature of our visit leads us to say that nothing should be done. [sentence as heard] We are thinking particularly of Reagan's proposal currently under discussion in the U.S. Congress, which could hamper or prevent negotiated solutions. We appeal to the U.S. congressmen's sense of responsibility and goodwill in the hope that they will make constructive, positive decisions. [end recording]

WAGE INCREASE IN AGRICULTURE SECTOR ANNOUNCED

PA182336 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 18 Apr 85

[Text] Commander of the Revolution Jaime Wheelock Roman, agricultural development and agrarian reform minister, announced yesterday that there will be a wage readjustment as of 1 May for industrial, agroindustrial, and agricultural and livestock workers. The commander also announced that producers of sorghum, corn, eggs, and chicken will be paid new prices. They will be paid 650 cordobas for a quintal of corn, and 440 for the quintal of sorghum. The price of a dozen eggs, at the farm, will be 88 cordobas. A pound of chicken at the markets will cost 93 cordobas. These new increases are derived from the recent adjustments made to the economy by the revolutionary government, Wheelock said. Regarding the salary readjustment, he said that it is in line with new production costs and prices for producers.

WHEELOCK EXPLAINS PROBLEM OF SUGAR PRICES

PA211930 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1300 GMT 21 Apr 85

[Excerpts] Commander of the Revolution Jaime Wheelock Roman, Nicaraguan agricultural development and agrarian reform minister, during an event held yesterday at the Julio Buitrago sugar mill, said there is a great international economic depression that we must overcome with greater production.

Wheelock told the Julio Buitrago sugar mill workers that this historic sugarcane harvest must be maintained to prevent our economy from being affected. He added that our economy faces a monstrous international economic depression caused by the U.S. policy of protectionism against poor countries like Nicaragua.

[Being recording] As we have said many times, our country is experiencing, with many other poor and underdeveloped countries, the burden of a world economic crisis with regard to prices. The sugar we sold in 1973 at $60 per quintal is sold today at $3 per quintal. This is because of the depression in the world market. Therefore, the effort we put forth here to produce sugar is being defeated by the low price on the world market. They do not allow us, as a sugar mill, to make enough profit to replace our old machinery and transportation equipment, which are falling apart.

This year the national sugar industry needed about $15 million to begin a relatively normal harvest, and we were able to get only $4.5 milion -- a bit more than one-quarter of what we needed. The initial estimates we made regarding this sugarcane harvest had been calculated as the best harvest ever of the national sugar industry. But because of this problem that has changed the material basis of the whole sugar industry -- in the fields, in the factories, and so forth -- our actual production was below the estimate.

The truth is that the state sugar mills have reached their goals. We had predicted a sugarcane harvest of 2.8 million quintals, and the state sugarmills will be close to this figure, producing 2,534,943 quintals. This amount is slightly lower than production last year, when we worked under better conditions. [end recording]

During his speech Commander Wheelock said that the revolution's plan is to educate the workers and their children, to get them to study and even attend the university so in the future the production workers will be the ones handling the management of the sugar mills. This is why the United States and all our enemies hate us; because the workers and the peasants are consolidating their power, the revolutionary leader stressed.

RAUL CASTRO CONGRATULATES GUANTANAMO PCC LEADERS

FL242210 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2130 GMT 24 Apr 85

[Text] Army General Raul Castro Ruz, second secretary of the Communist Party of Cuba [PCC] Central Committee and minister of the FAR, has sent a message to Guantanamo Province PCC leaders congratulating them for Guantanamo having been declared "ready for defense."

The message of the first vice president of the Councils of State and Ministers, addressed to Raul Michel Vargas, alternate member of the PCC Central Committee and first secretary of the PCC in Guantanamo, reads in part: In the name of the commander in chief and in my own name, we send warm congratulations to the provincial and municipal committees of the party and to the people of Guantanamo, wishing you new success in carrying out the tasks related to production and defense.

VENCEREMOS BRIGADE OFFICIALLY WELCOMED 22 APRIL

FL231315 Havana Television Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 23 Apr 85

[Text] The official welcoming ceremony for the 16th contingent of the Venceremos Brigade took place last night at the Julio Antonio Mella campground, in Cimito municipality.

VECINO ALEGRET MARKS LENIN BIRTH ANNIVERSARY

FL231724 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1000 GMT 23 Apr 85

[Text] Politburo member Carlos Rafael Rodriguez presided over the University of Havana's main ceremony commemorating Vladimir Ilyich Lenin's 115th birthday anniversary.

Fernando Vecino Alegret, Central Committee member and minister of higher education, made the closing remarks. Vecino Alegret expressed the Cuban people's acknowledgement of the country which paved the way to socialist revolution. The minister underscored Lenin's concern over new generations' education and recalled Lenin's remarks that it is the duty of youths to create the socialist society.

JOINT COMMISSION WITH FINLAND MEETS

FL152255 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2130 GMT 15 Apr 85

[Text] The eighth meeting of the Cuban-Finnish joint commission for economic, industrial, scientific, and technical cooperation has begun its work at the Sierra Maestra Hotel in Havana. Delegations of the two countries will examine the economic industrial, scientific, and technical bilateral cooperation and trade until 19 April, when a protocol will be signed regarding those matters.

Protocol Signed

FL201906 Havana Television Service in Spanish 1700 GMT 20 Apr 85

[Text] The eighth meeting of the Cuban-Finnish Joint Commission for economic, industrial, scientific, and technical cooperation has ended at the Finnish Embassy in this capital city with the signing of a protocol. The document contains an analysis of the economic and trade relations between the two countries and expresses their intention of diversifying trade. The document also prescribes the conditions of Cuban-Finnish trade and economic, industrial, scientific, and technical cooperation, and expands the program for the exchange of specialists. The protocol is based on mutual benefit and strengthening economic contacts between the two nations.

FOREIGN MINISTER ARRIVES IN CAMBODIA

For Havana radio and Phnom Penh radio and SPK accounts of the visit to the People's Republic of Kampuchea by Foreign Relations Minister Isidoro Malmierca, see the Cambodia section of the 25 April Aisa & Pacific DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

U.S. HOUSE VOTES AGAINST AID TO CONTRAS

FL241515 Havana Television Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 24 Apr 85

[Text] Washington -- The Democratic-controlled House of Representatives by majority vote, has rejected the resumption of U.S. military aid to Nicaraguan contras. Reagan's request for $14 million to help the anti-Sandinists was decisively defeated. This is the fourth time the U.S. House of Representatives has rejected military aid for the CIA-led contras.

'OUR AMERICA' ON U.S. TREATMENT OF MEXICANS

PA170238 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 15 Apr 85

["Our America" commentary]

[Text] By the end of 1985, more than 1.5 million Mexican workers will have been arrested and deported from the United States, according to an estimate made by the Border Study Center in northern Mexico. Jorge Bustamante, director of the center, has explained that despite the fact that the number of undocumented Mexicans who go to the United States seeking work has decreased, the number of deportations has increased because of the increase in the number of raids and the general repression that U.S. police are implementing along the border.

The U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service budget has been increased by $44 million because the number of policemen operating along the border has been doubled and because of the technological improvement in control and repression equipment.

The director of the center said that this has been an unfriendly action by Washington, which does not care about the fact that the undocumented Mexicans contribute to the U.S. economy in an important way.

Burt Avila, deputy director of the intelligence office of the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service in the city of El Paso, Texas, has declared that the arrest rate of undocumented workers during the first months of this year is 40 percent higher than the same period in 1984.

Not long ago, the Latin American Federation of Chicano Students denounced the fact that the raids carried out by the U.S. Immigration Service, with support from other police forces, have increased in U.S. cities close to the Mexican border and have even touched the University of Texas.

At the most important meeting places of Mexican-Americans there have been raids and many North Americans have been seized just because they look like Mexicans.

In statements to local newsmen, leaders of the Labor Action and Immigration Center and local leaders of the Democratic Party in Los Angeles, California, have said that immigration laws have resulted in 1 million deportees and have intensified feelings of uncertainty among the 15 million Spanish-speaking people who live in the United States.

They agreed that the anti-Mexican measures of U.S. President Ronald Reagan are bringing to an end the few rights that the undocumented workers had secured. There is the cut in the school food service, exclusion from official housing and food programs, and the elimination of bilingual education in schools where the majority of the kids speak Spanish.

A rule by which hospitals demand to be shown documents issued by the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service leaves millions of Mexican workers without this basic service and many die because they cannot go to any health center.

Recently, the Mexican Senate organized a public audience on migratory workers and it was stated there that the extraordinary case of people without documents responds to an international labor market in which the United States provides the demand and Mexico the supply. It was made clear at that audience that the U.S. media exaggerates the matter and has artificially turned it into a problem of national security, thus propitiating discrimination, violation of the human rights of the undocumented workers, and pressure on Mexico.

The U.S. policy against Mexico is made evident not only by the expulsion of undocumented Mexicans, but also by the restrictions placed on many Mexican exports, especially products from northern Mexican states. This situation is making it increasingly difficult for Mexico to implement its economic development policy.

MACHADO VENTURA, LUGO FONTE CHAIR PCC MEETING

FL240136 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 23 Apr 85

[Text] Jose Ramon Machado Ventura, member of the PCC Politburo, and Orlando Lugo Fonte, alternate member of the PCC Central Committee and first party secretary in Pinar del Rio Province, have presided over the assessment, renewal, and ratification of assignment assembly held in the city of Pinar del Rio. The participants in the meeting supported exceeding all the economic and social plans to salute the third party congress.

JORGE RISQUET PRESIDES OVER GUANTANAMO MEETING

FL240152 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 24 Apr 85

[Text] Jorge Risquet Valdes, member of the Politburo of the PCC Central Committee, has presided over the meeting held in Guantanamo to study the progress of the preparations for the main ceremony commemorating 26 July, which the easternmost province of Cuba will host. A detailed assessment was made of the situation of the principal tasks such as transport, electrification, completion of priority tasks, modernization of installations, and cultural and sport activities to be held. The area designated for astronautics displays, which will be located in the Mariana Grajales Revolutionary Square, received special mention.

CANO BLANCO ATTENDS MOA CONSTRUCTION MEETING

FL241448 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1000 GMT 24 Apr 85

[Text] Mao's Punta Gorda nickel plant workers have ratified their decision of completing the project in November. This date was suggested by the Commander in Chief Fidel Castro on the occasion of the 68th anniversary of the October Revolution.

According to the findings of the project's progress examined at a meeting, leaders of the construction team confirmed their commitment to have it ready for its inauguration to salute the party third congress.

Miguel Cano Blanco, Politburo member and party first secretary in Holguin Province attended the meeting.

A significant balance has been redressed (by the impost), Anthony Williams, the president of the Jamaica Manufacturers Association (JMA), told reporters yeaterday. Williams, who is also a vice president of the Caribbean Association of Industry and Commerce (CAIC) was speaking here on trade matters, which are likely to dominate the associations annual conference to be held in the western city of Montego Bay on May 17 and 18. Caricom trade has been in decline in recent years because of restrictive actions by national governments to deal with foreign exchange and balance of payments problems.

Jamaica has been a major target of criticism because massive currency devaluations and open market policies aimed at forcing local manufacturers into finding hard currency markets has hampered regional imports. Community states say they cannot compete on the Jamaican market with cheaper products from outside the Caribbean. They are also finding it increasingly difficult to compete with locally manufactured items. At the Caricom summit in the Bahamas last July, Jamaica was excepted for two years from an agreement to considerably raise tariffs on a specified list of foreign products to protect regional goods. Jamaica argued that its structural adjustment agreement with the World Bank precluded it from taking such restrictive steps.

However, just over a week ago Prime Minister Edward Seaga announced that the stamp duty was being raised to 40 percent on a number of consumer imports. Goods from the Caricom region were excluded. An additional 10 percent stamp duty, in addition to six percent imposed last year, was placed on raw material imports. This 16 percent can be recouped in the products fashioned from these raw materials are exported to hard currency -- Caricom -- markets. [sentence as received]

At the recent meeting of the Caricom Council of Ministers in Guyana, Jamaica argued that these measures went a way in satisfying part of the Nassau agreements, Williams said. Williams said that despite policy moves here in recent years which seem to suggest that we should forget Caricom, the Jamaica private sector has always been behind the community. We have always felt that we should keep and expand our Caricom market and in addition seek wider markets, he added.

Much of the criticism of Jamaica's fiscal and economic policies and their impact on regional trade have come from manufacturers in Trinidad and Tobago, who have in the past lobbied their government to further tighten its restrictions on regional imports. Both Williams and Jamaica Chamber of Commerce President Bruce Rickards hoped that Kingston's new measures would help assuage their Port-of-Spain counterparts. Said Williams: What we have always been for is free and open trade. We want to compete fairly in a free and open market.

The CAIC's programme and public affairs officer, Mrs Betty Russel, felt that next month's CAIC gathering in Jamaica would help provide a forum for arriving at a consensus on resolving the trade problems.

ST VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES

COUNTRY TO BENEFIT FROM CANADIAN AIRPORT PROGRAM

FL221450 Bridgetown CANA in English 1347 GMT 20 Apr 85

[Text] Kingstown, St Vincent, April 20, CANA -- St Vincent and the Grenadines is to benefit from Canada's 75 million dollar (C), five year Caribbean airport development programme, the government has announced.

NEW TELECOMMUNICATIONS ASSOCIATION CREATED

FL192324 Bridgetown CANA in English 2238 GMT 19 Apr 85

[Text] Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, April 19, CANA -- Representatives from nine countries have formally established the Caribbean Association of National Telecommunications Organisations (CANTO) at an inaugural meeting here which elected Trinidad and Tobago as its first chairman.

The organisation has been set up to represent the regions' interests as a collective body and help spur development through co-operation.

Delegates elected Barbados as vice-chairman, and Jamaica, Belize, and Antigua and Barbuda as board members sharing the posts of secretary and treasurer. An official statement said that within the next two weeks countries would be asked to nominate permanent representatives to CANTO.

Conference chairman Dr Neilson Mackay, executive director of the Trinidad and Tobago Telephone Co, said: We're going to put a lot of time in this year and bring the name of CANTO into focus to the people with whom we're dealing...to bring about the kind of improvement that we want to see in the region.

The organisation comprises telephone companies and associated firms. Organisers said one of CANTO's first tasks was representing its members at a conference on telecommunications scheduled for Jamaica in October.

Delegates also came from Grenada, Guyana, Bermuda and the Bahamas.

BARBADOS

PRIME MINISTER TO PRESENT BUDGET TO ASSEMBLY

FL241654 Bridgetown CANA in English 1408 GMT 24 Apr 85

[Text] Bridgetown, Barbados, April 24, CANA -- Barbados new Prime Minister Bernard St John will present his first budget to parliament May 7.

St John, who took over as government leader and minister of finance with the sudden death last March 11 of Prime Minister Tom Adams, yesterday tabled in the House of Assembly two documents related to the 1985 budget presentation, Barbados 1984 economic survey, and the annual report of the Central Bank for last year.

In the 1984-1985 budget presented April 17, last year Adams projected expenditure of 747.6 million dollars, a 17.1 per cent increase over the 638.2 million dollars envisaged for the 1983-84 fiscal year.

JAMAICA

GOVERNMENT HIKES EXTRA-REGIONAL IMPORT DUTY

FL241815 Bridgetown CANA in English 1448 GMT 24 Apr 85

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, April 24, CANA -- A 30 per cent additional stamp duty the Edward Seaga government has imposed on extra-regional consumer imports will help return competitivity in Jamaica to Caribbean Community (Caricom) imports, a top private sector official said.

Under the scheme, the main airport here, Arnos Vale just outside Kingstown, will have its fire fighting and navigational equipment upgraded and the 4,650-foot runway improved, Minister of Communications and Works Burton Williams said. The 1,800-foot airstrip on the small Grenadine Island of Cannouan, 34 miles south of St Vincent itself, will be surfaced and fenced under the programme, Williams said.

The minister, who has just signed the supplementary agreement with the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), said the programme places emphasis on airport safety. It also includes a training package, certain aspects of which were scheduled to begin in June.

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

GOVERNMENT TO IMPLEMENT ECONOMIC GROWTH PLAN

FL192336 Bridgetown CANA in English 2227 GMT 19 Apr 85

[Text] Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, April 19, CANA -- The Trinidad and Tobago Government is moving to implement a five-point plan to aid the resumption of national economic growth, according to Industry and Commerce Minister Senator Wendell Mottley.

Addressing the annual meeting of the southern division of the Chamber of Industry and Commerce, Mottley said the plan involves revival of the key petroleum industry, a gas monetization strategy, a manufacturing revitalisation programme, maximisation of the country's tourism potential, and a programme for agricultural import substitution.

In the short term, said Mottley, government will seek to deepen gains made by agricultural import substitution and use dollars made in tourism, foreign investments in oil, ammonia and methanol to provide foreign exchange to turn the economy around. We are working on the restructuring of the petroleum corporate economy, said the minister.

Addressing the long term, he added monetising our gas, expanding our plant in tourism, both in Tobago and the north coast of Trinidad, and putting together all the elements necessary for revitalisation of our manufacturing enterprises, in which export development will be a key element. On all this hangs the defence of the standard of living that we in Trinidad and Tobago have grown accustomed to enjoy, he said.

Mottley's announcement addressed a number of key economic issues which opposition leaders and trade unions have been calling on government to address especially since the 1985 budget last January.

At the moment, said the senator, addressing his attention to the petroleum sector following the purchase of Texaco, detailed planning for the restructuring of our corporate presence in oil is proceeding apace...you are also aware that the rate of decline in oil production has already been reversed.

A downturn in the oil sector, backbone of the economy, caused government to embark on belt-tightening activity to cushion the impact of a fall-off in revenues.

Trinidad and Tobago is now the second largest exporter of ammonia in the world and we are internationally recognised as possessing all the major requisites to be the prime site for new ammonia investments in the world, Mottley said. Mottley took the opportunity to repeat government's stated commitment to projects constructing new methanol and ammonia plants in south Trinidad.

On tourism which has received increased attention from government as a potential major earner of foreign exchange, Mottley said hotel occupancy rates were seriously on the decline. He said that following discussions with several parties interested in the local tourist sector, he would be proposing to cabinet a move to submit an unambiguous statement on government's tourism policy and attempt to fix the tourist product the country is attempting to sell.

To Seek Foreign Investment

FL241643 Bridgetown CANA in English 2216 GMT 23 Apr 85

[Text] Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, April 23, CANA -- Investment terms from South Korea and the United States are due here later this year as part of a strong move by this country to diversify the economy in the face of a drop in oil revenues, External Affairs Minister Errol Mahabir announced.

The minister revealed that several government ministries are re-examining export markets abroad and changing this country's image for foreign investment. He also revealed that government is seeking the direct help of agencies abroad to help lure investment here.

Already we expect that in the latter half of May an advance technical team from South Korea will arrive to hold discussions on mutual cooperation in investment, trade, and applied research. In the fourth quarter we are planning to receive senior executives of U.S. corporations...to explore with local businessmen opportunities for investment and trade.

Mahabir also called on all concerned to share in the establishment of a new economic and social framework necessary for this country's development. I believe that as part of our foreign investment strategy we must go in search of investment. Joint private and public sector missions carefully targeted to cities in the U.S., Europe, Canada, the Far East, etc. can play a pivotal role in the agricultural sector and in a recent export thrust.

The tourist industry, however, remains in the doldrums, said Mahabir. The quality of the service which the country offers, although improving, is still considered inadequate by many tour operators and our prices are considered too high. This is too important an industry to be allowed to stagnate. Steps are being taken to revitalise this most important sector.

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

STATE UNIVERSITY CLOSES AFTER DEMONSTRATIONS

FL241556 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 24 Apr 85

[Text] Officials at the Dominican State University yesterday closed the school down for a week, 1 day after police lobbed tear gas at students in 9 hours of demonstrations for a bigger budget. While it was not known how many students were injured, officials said several policemen had been among the wounded. On Monday, students threw rocks at police, broke windows in neighboring businesses, and set electrical posts on fire to demand the doubling of the university's $10 million annual budget.

GUYANA

GOVERNMENT BUYS CHASE MANHATTAN BANK BRANCH

FL242030 Bridgetown CANA in English 2345 GMT 23 Apr 85

[By Edwin Ali]

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, April 23, CANA -- The Government of Guyana today announced that it had reached an agreement with the Chase Manhattan Bank of North America to acquire the assets of the company's branch here for a nominal price of one dollar (one Guyana dollar: 22 cents U.S.).

The move followed take-over of The Royal Bank of Canada's operation here for a similar price last November.

Chase has taken various steps in recent years to restructure its operations in the international area, an official statement said. These steps have included the closing of twenty-eight offices in the Caribbean region based on the desire to re-allocate resources consistent, with overall corporate strategy.

In addition, Chase explained that there have been limitations on the remittance of foreign exchange from Guyana. At the same time, both government and the bank were anxious to ensure that the banking services would continue to be available, the statement said. This will be accomplished through the formation of a successor bank that will seek to maintain the staff, services, and clients of the Chase Branch in Georgetown.

An agreement covering these and other details of the transfer was signed in Georgetown this afternoon by Finance Minister Carl Greenidge and Charles M. Dusseau, vice president of Chase.

In conjunction with the sale of its branch to the Government of Guyana, Chase also announced that it is making a donation of its accumulated profits in Guyana, which are currently on deposit with the Central Bank of Guyana and exceed five million dollars (G), to The Pan American Development Foundation.

The foundation is an inter-American charitable institution with headquarters at the Organisation of American States (OAS) in Washington, the statement said. These funds, the statement said, will be used entirely for economic development and educational projects in Guyana. The formal transfer arrangements under the agreement will be completed in the near future, with the actual transfer to occur on May 31, this year, the statement said.